GOLD KEY ®

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A GOLDEN SPECIAL

GOLDEN COMICS DIGEST®

69¢

THE LONE RANGER'S WESTERN TREASURY

EXCITING ADVENTURES WITH TONTO AND SILVER

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Walt Disney Comics Digest...

GOLDEN COMICS DIGEST

NUMBER 48

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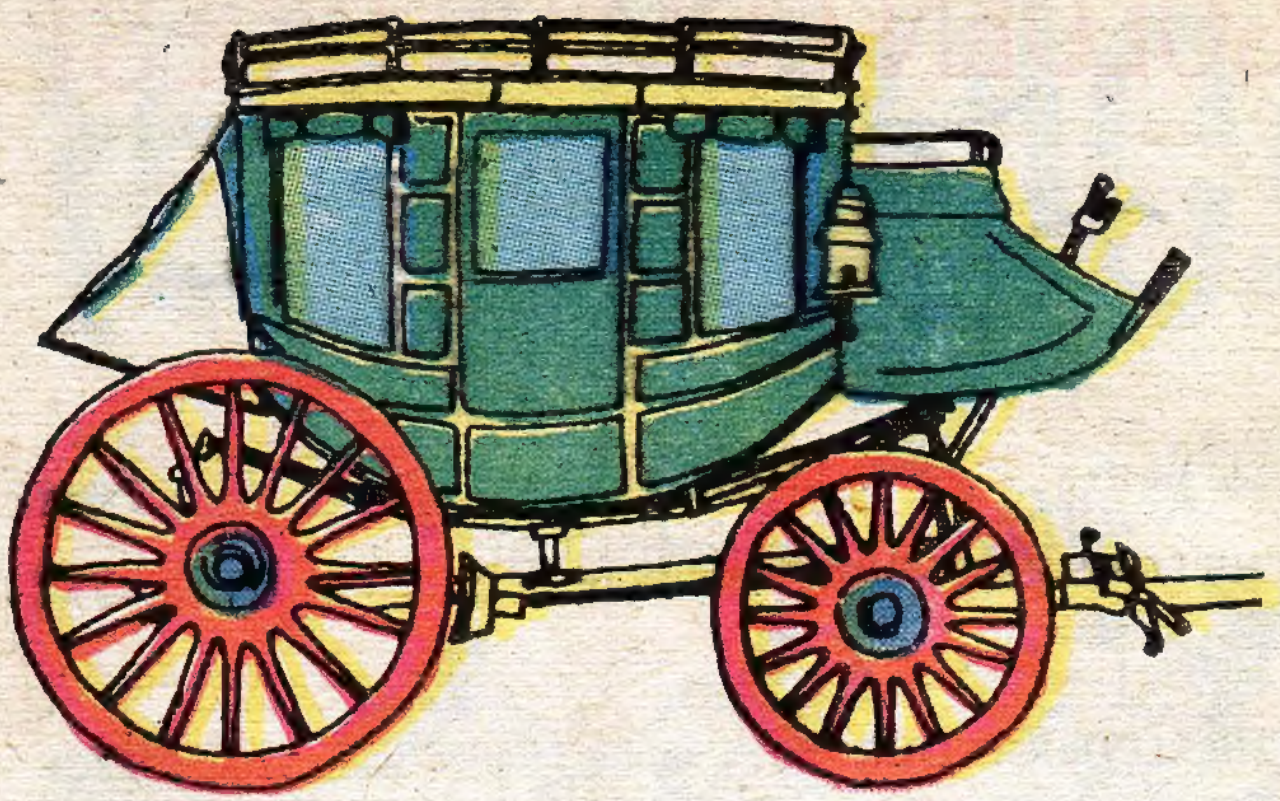

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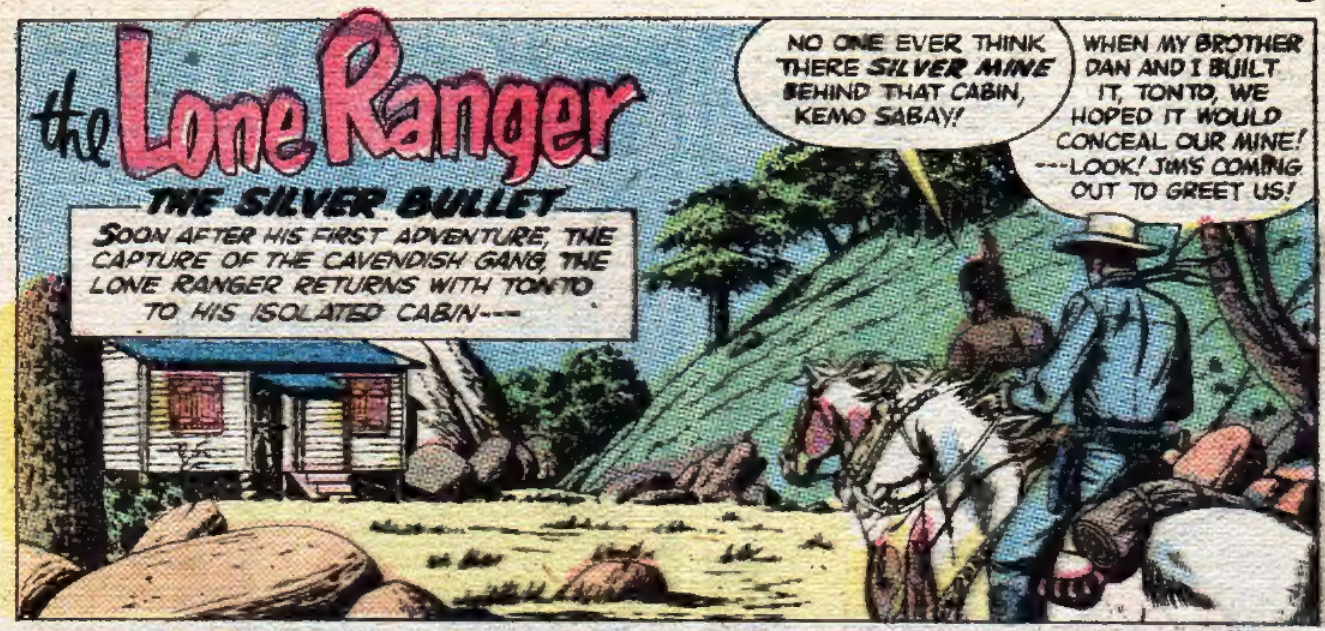
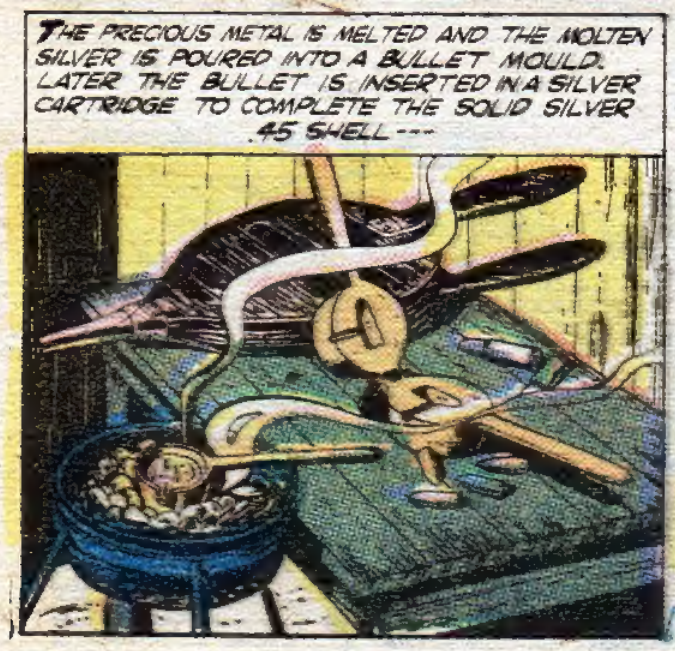
GOLDEN COMICS DIGEST No. 48, January 1976. Published bi-monthly by Western Publishing Company, Inc., North Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 1961, 1960, 1954 The Lone Ranger, Inc. Copyright © 1975, 1970 Wrather Corporation. FBScan


the Lone Ranger
THE SILVER BULLET
SOON AFTER HIS FIRST ADVENTURE, THE CAPTURE OF THE CAVENDISH GANG, THE LONE RANGER RETURNS WITH TONTO TO HIS ISOLATED CABIN---
NO ONE EVER THINK THERE SILVER MINE BEHIND THAT CABIN, KEMO SABAY!
WHEN MY BROTHER DAN AND I BUILT IT, TONTO, WE HOPED IT WOULD CONCEAL OUR MINE! ---LOOK! JIM'S COMING OUT TO GREET US!

REACH, YOU MASKED--- OH! IT'S YOU, REID! GUESS I'M NOT USED TO YOUR MASK YET!
WE'RE BACK, JIM! I NEED SILVER BULLETS FOR MY GUNS!

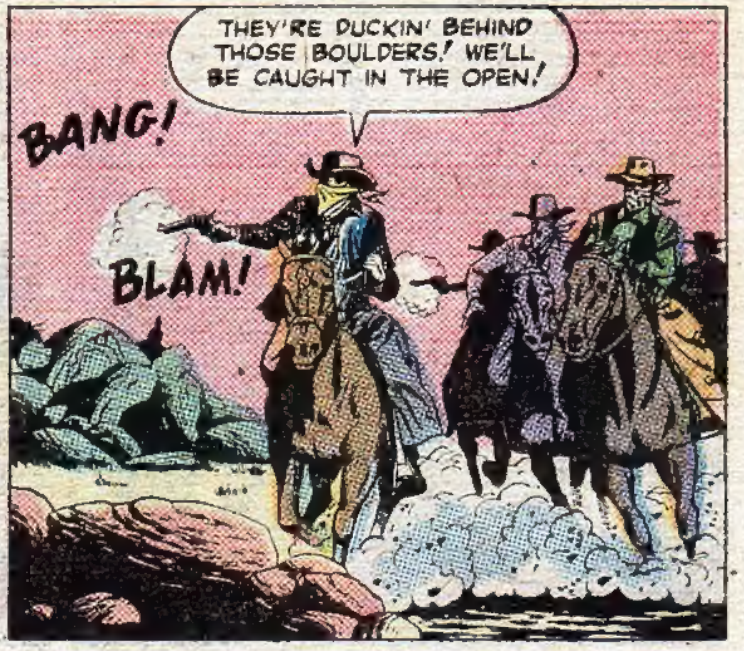
I'VE BEEN WORKIN' THIS SHAFT! RECKON THE WEST'LL RUN OUT OF OUTLAWS BEFORE YOU RUN OUT OF SILVER FOR YOUR BULLETS!


THE PRECIOUS METAL IS MELTED AND THE MOLTEN SILVER IS POURED INTO A BULLET MOULD. LATER THE BULLET IS INSERTED IN A SILVER CARTRIDGE TO COMPLETE THE SOLID SILVER .45 SHELL---

THERE! MY COLT PEACEMAKERS ARE LOADED AND MY GUNBELT IS FILLED! LET'S MOUNT, TONTO! ---I'M READY TO RIDE!

THERE'LL BE MORE SILVER WAITING YOUR RETURN! PRETTY SOON, I RECKON EVERY OWLHOOT 'ROUND THESE PARTS'LL KNOW IF HE DOESN'T KEEP THE LAW, HE CAN EXPECT SILVER BULLETS!
ADIOS, JIM!--- COME ON, SILVER!
SOON---
BANG!
KEMO SABAY, GUNFIRE!
IT'S COMING FROM THE HILL AHEAD! --- LET'S GO, BIG FELLOW!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
BANG! BLAM!
THAT MAN IS BACKED TO THE HILLSIDE BY MASKED AMBUSHERS, TONTO! USE YOUR GUN!
YEOOW!
BANG!
BILLY! BEHIND US!
GUN DOWN THOSE MEDDLERS!

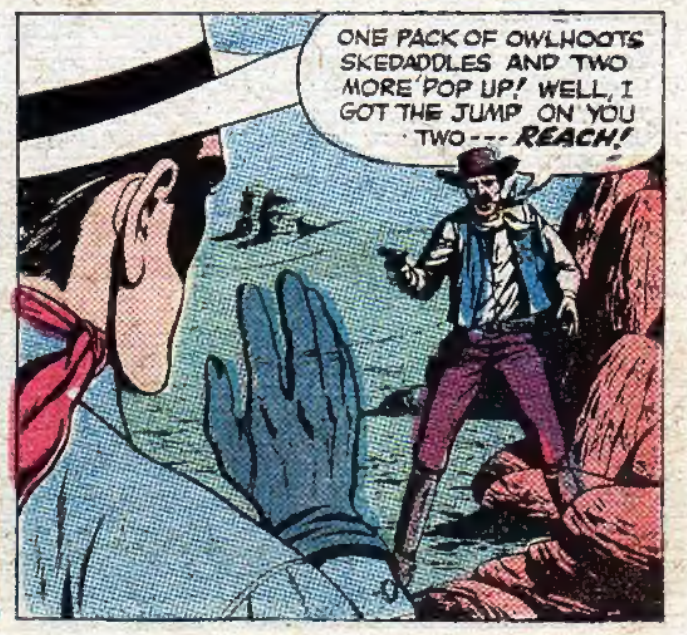
M-MY GUN!
ZING

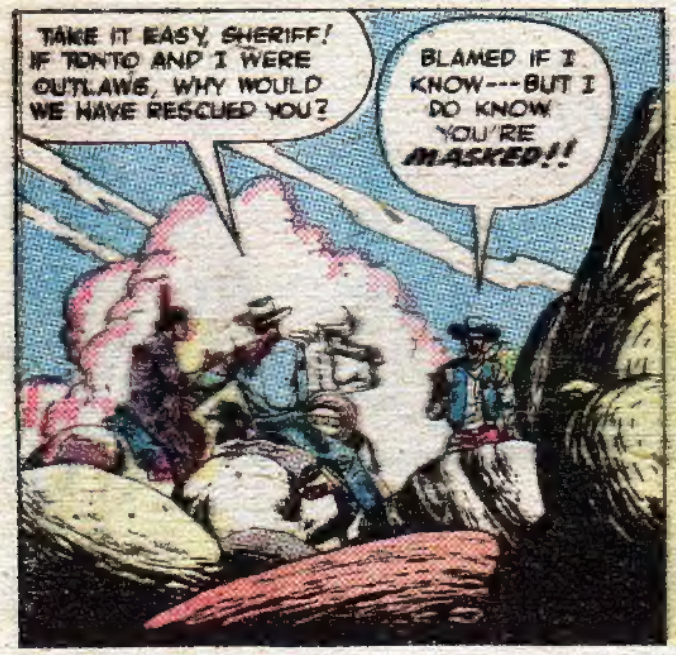

THEY'RE DUCKIN' BEHIND THOSE BOULDERS! WE'LL BE CAUGHT IN THE OPEN!
BANG!
BLAM!

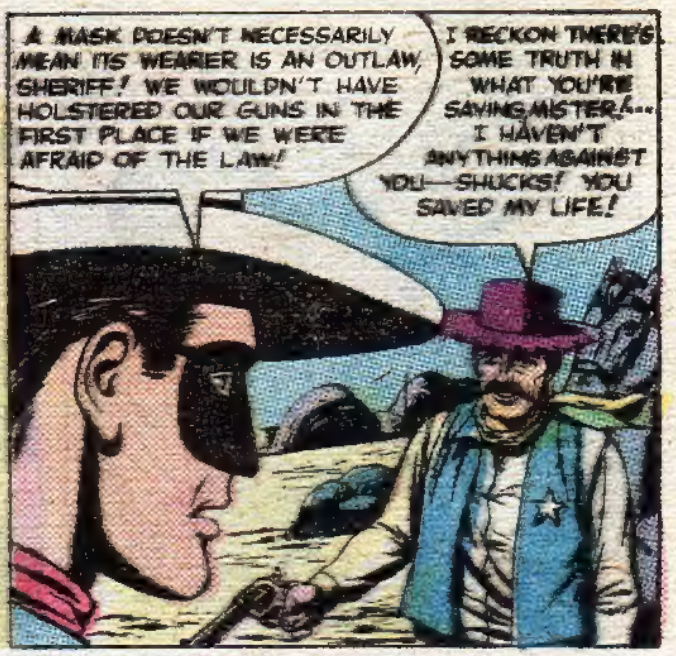
CAN'T SEE WHO THEY ARE! MIGHT BE A POSSE! HIGH-TAIL IT!

LOOK, TONTO! THE MAN WE HELPED WEARS A SHERIFF'S BADGE!

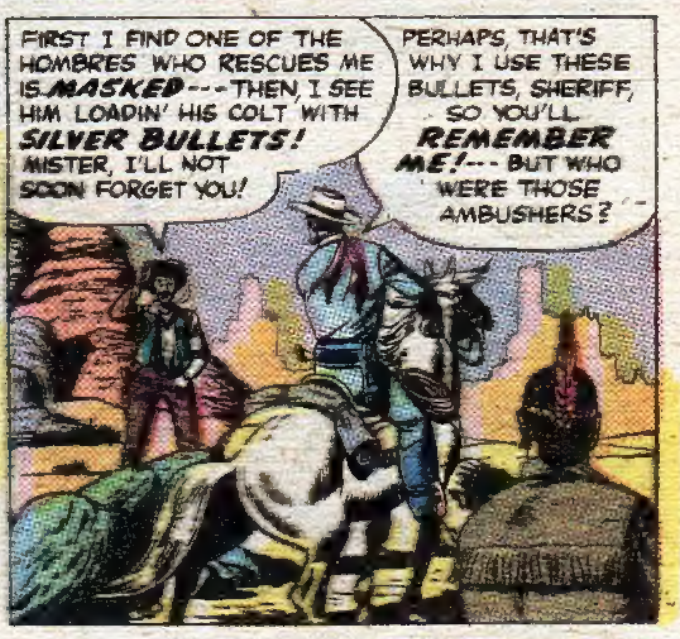
THANKS, GENTS! YOU TWO CAME JUST--- WHAT IN BLAZES? YOU'RE MASKED!

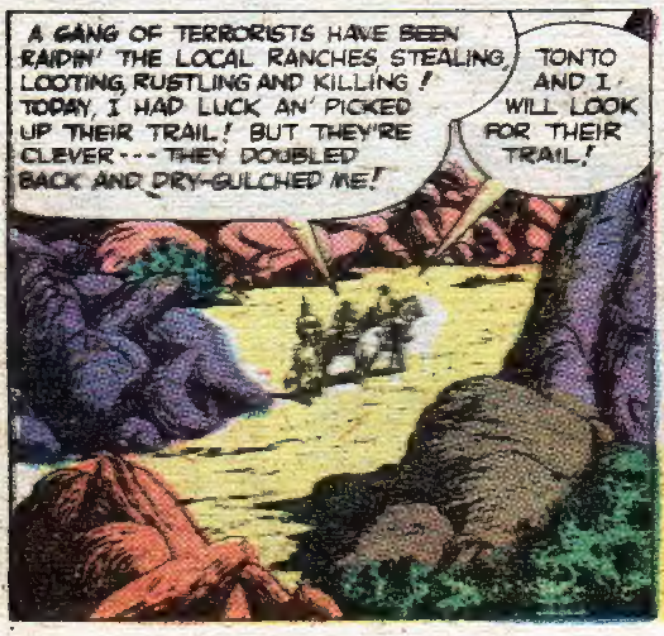

ONE PACK OF OWLHOOTS SKEDADDLES AND TWO MORE POP UP! WELL, I GOT THE JUMP ON YOU TWO--- REACH!


TAKE IT EASY, SHERIFF! IF TONTO AND I WERE OUTLAWS, WHY WOULD WE HAVE RESCUED YOU?
BLAMED IF I KNOW---BUT I DO KNOW YOU'RE MASKED!!


A MASK DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ITS WEARER IS AN OUTLAW, SHERIFF! WE WOULDN'T HAVE HOLSTERED OUR GUNS IN THE FIRST PLACE IF WE WERE AFRAID OF THE LAW!
I RECKON THERE'S SOME TRUTH IN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MISTER!--- I HAVEN'T ANYTHING AGAINST YOU---SHUCKS! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

JUMPIN' CATFISH! ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS OR ARE THOSE BULLETS SILVER?
YES, SHERIFF, THEY ARE SILVER!


FIRST I FIND ONE OF THE HOMBRES WHO RESCUES ME IS MASKED---THEN, I SEE HIM LOADIN' HIS COLT WITH SILVER BULLETS! MISTER, I'LL NOT SOON FORGET YOU!
PERHAPS, THAT'S WHY I USE THESE BULLETS, SHERIFF, SO YOU'LL REMEMBER ME!--- BUT WHO WERE THOSE AMBUSHERS?

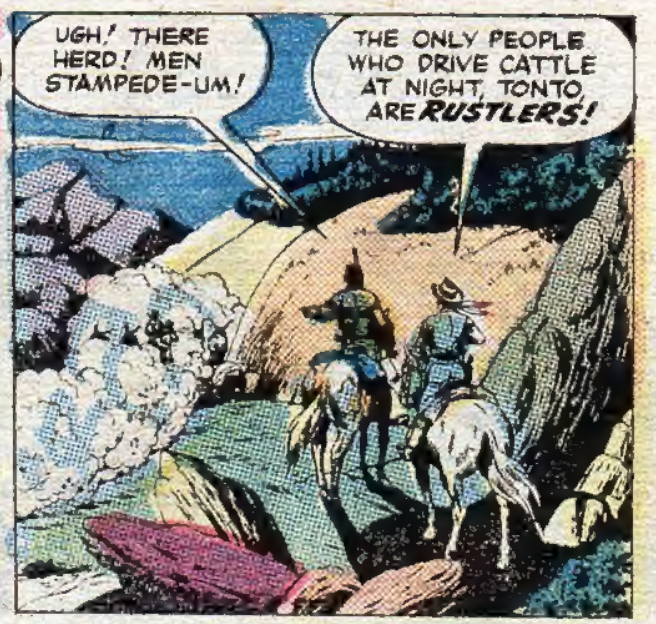

A GANG OF TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN RAIDIN' THE LOCAL RANCHES, STEALING, LOOTING, RUSTLING AND KILLING! TODAY, I HAD LUCK AN' PICKED UP THEIR TRAIL! BUT THEY'RE CLEVER--- THEY DOUBLED BACK AND DRY-GULCHED ME!
TONTO AND I WILL LOOK FOR THEIR TRAIL!

I'M GOIN' BACK TO ROUND UP A POSSE TO SEARCH THIS AREA! FOLLOWING THEIR TRAIL LEADS TO NOWHERE--- IT JUST VANISHES! BUT IF YOU FIND A SIGN OF 'EM, LET ME KNOW, MR. SILVER BULLETS!
WE WILL, SHERIFF! ---COME ON, SILVER!

SOON---
TRAIL LEAD TO RIVER, KEMO SABAY!
THEY'RE TRYING TO COVER IT, TONTO! WE'LL SEARCH BOTH BANKS! WE MAY FIND WHERE THEY CAME OUT OF THE RIVER!
NOW GROUND ON BOTH SIDES HARD WE NOT FIND-UM!
IT'S ALMOST DARK, TONTO! WE'LL CAMP HERE AND TOMORROW CONTINUE OUR SEARCH FOR THE RAIDERS!
THAT NIGHT---
RIGHT, BUCKY!
THERE'S THE PAY ROLL BUCKBOARD! DROP THE MEN ON IT!
BANG! BLAM!
NICE SHOOTIN'! YOU PLUGGED 'EM BOTH!
AIEEEE
I'LL TAKE THE REINS! RIDE FOR THE HIDE-OUT! THE MINERS' WAGES ARE IN THOSE MONEYBAGS!

THE NEXT NIGHT---
NO ONE HEARD US CUT THE FENCE, BUCKY!
KEEP THE STEERS MOVIN'! LIGHTS JUST WENT ON IN THE RANCH HOUSE!

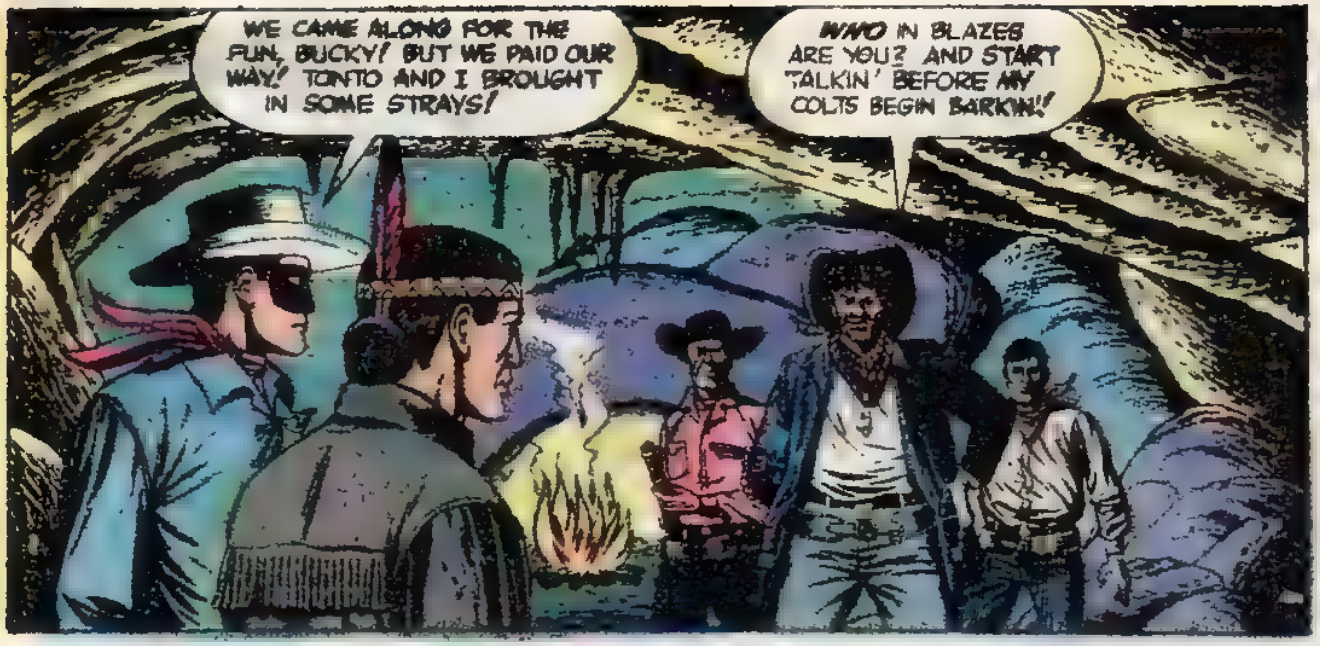
KEMO SABAY, LISTEN!
HOOFBEATS---IT SOUNDS LIKE CATTLE MOVING!


UGH! THERE HERD! MEN STAMPEDE-UM!
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO DRIVE CATTLE AT NIGHT, TONTO, ARE RUSTLERS!

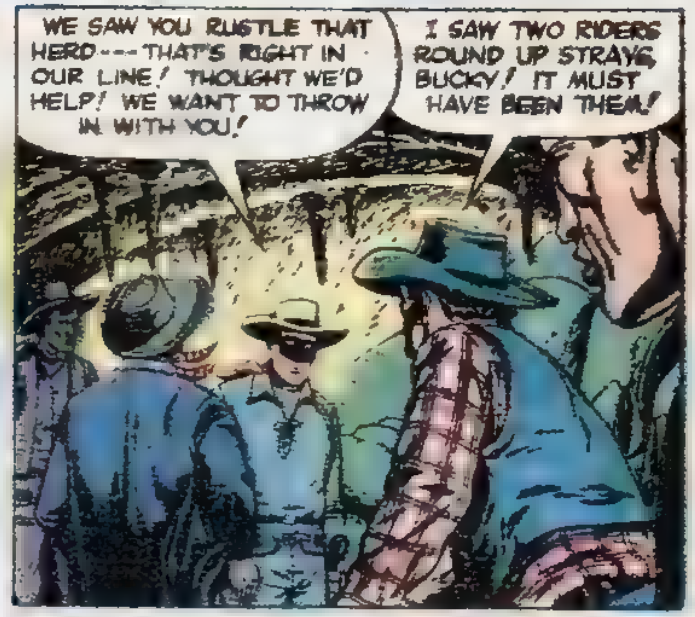
WE RIDE FOR SHERIFF?
NO, TONTO! WE MIGHT LOSE THEIR TRAIL AGAIN! I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN! SOME OF THEIR STEERS ARE WANDERING OFF! WE'LL ROUND THEM UP AND JOIN THE RUSTLERS!

BUT IF THEY FIND OUT WE NOT OUTLAWS---
---WE'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE THEM, TONTO! THE FIRST ACT WILL BE TO BRING IN THOSE STRAYS!---COME ON, SILVER!

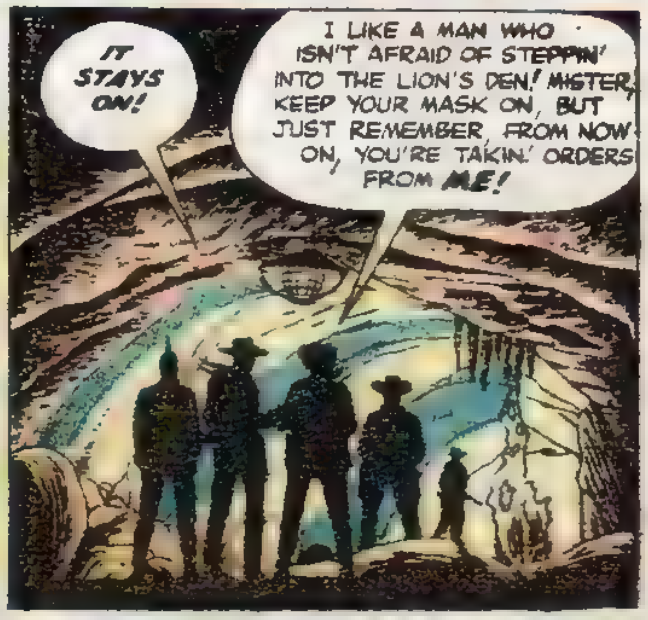
WHOA, FELLER! YOU GET-UM BACK!
THAT'S IT, TONTO!-NOW JOIN THE HERD AND ACT AS IF YOU WERE ONE OF THE RUSTLERS!
UGH!
TWO OF THE BOYS ARE BRINGIN' IN THE STRAYS, BUCKY!
GOOD! KEEP 'EM CLOSE, WE'RE ALMOST READY TO FORD THE RIVER! ONCE ACROSS, NO POSSE'LL EVER PICK UP OUR TRAIL!
LATER, DEEP INSIDE A HIDDEN CANYON---
THE CATTLE ARE CORRALED, BUCKY!
WE'RE SAFE HERE BY THE CAVE! YOU CAN LOWER THAT BANDANA!
WHAT IN THUNDERATION? BUCKY, HE'S STILL MASKED!
NEVER SAW HIM OR THE INDIAN BEFORE ---COVER 'EM!


WE CAME ALONG FOR THE FUN, BUCKY! BUT WE PAID OUR WAY! TONTO AND I BROUGHT IN SOME STRAYS!
WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU? AND START TALKIN' BEFORE MY COLTS BEGIN BARKIN'!

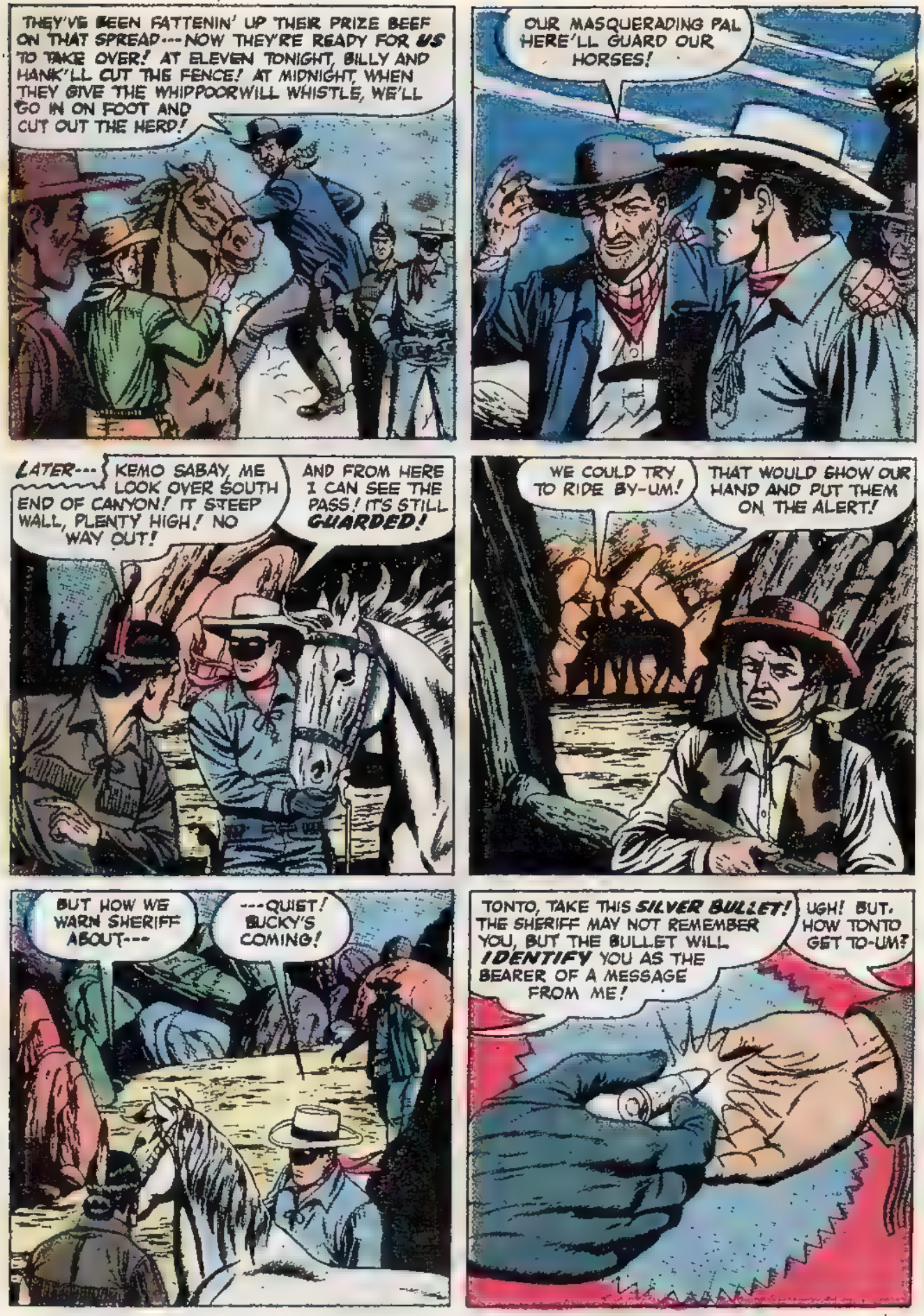
I THOUGHT MY MASK WOULD TELL WHAT I AM! AS FOR WHO I AM --- WELL, I WOULDN'T BE WEARING THIS MASK IF I WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW!
YOU AND THE INDIAN ARE PRETTY COOL CUSTOMERS COMIN' IN HERE!


WE SAW YOU RUSTLE THAT HERD --- THAT'S RIGHT IN OUR LINE! THOUGHT WE'D HELP! WE WANT TO THROW IN WITH YOU!
I SAW TWO RIDERS ROUND UP STRAYS, BUCKY! IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEM!

THE REST OF OUR GANG WAS CAUGHT BUCKY! BUT I RECKON YOU COULD USE SOME EXTRA LEADSLINGERS!
YEAH --- I COULD! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MASK!


IT STAYS ON!
I LIKE A MAN WHO ISN'T AFRAID OF STEPPIN' INTO THE LION'S DEN! MISTER, KEEP YOUR MASK ON, BUT JUST REMEMBER, FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE TAKIN' ORDERS FROM ME!

LATER, AS THE GANG SLEEPS...
TONTO, WE'VE FOUND THE OUTLAWS' HIDE-OUT---
UGH! BUT WE NOT GET OUT EASY TO TELL SHERIFF!
YOU'RE RIGHT, TONTO! BUCKY HAS A MAN ON GUARD BY THE CANYON ENTRANCE SO THE GANG WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE---BUT HE ALSO MAKES US STAY HERE!
WE WAIT FOR CHANCE TO ESCAPE?
YES, TONTO! WE'LL PLAY ALONG WITH THIS GANG! BUT IF THEY PREPARE TO COMMIT SOME NEW CRIME, WE'LL BE FORCED TO ACT!
THE NEXT DAY---
BOYS, I JUST RODE BACK FROM THE CIRCLE-D! TONIGHT WE'RE PULLIN' ANOTHER JOB!


THEY'VE BEEN FATTENIN' UP THEIR PRIZE BEEF ON THAT SPREAD--- NOW THEY'RE READY FOR US TO TAKE OVER! AT ELEVEN TONIGHT, BILLY AND HANK'LL CUT THE FENCE! AT MIDNIGHT, WHEN THEY GIVE THE WHIPPOORWILL WHISTLE, WE'LL GO IN ON FOOT AND CUT OUT THE HERD!
OUR MASQUERADING PAL HERE'LL GUARD OUR HORSES!
LATER---
KEMO SABAY, ME LOOK OVER SOUTH END OF CANYON! IT STEEP WALL, PLENTY HIGH! NO WAY OUT!
AND FROM HERE I CAN SEE THE PASS! IT'S STILL GUARDED!
WE COULD TRY TO RIDE BY-UM!
THAT WOULD SHOW OUR HAND AND PUT THEM ON THE ALERT!
BUT HOW WE WARN SHERIFF ABOUT---
---QUIET! BUCKY'S COMING!
TONTO, TAKE THIS SILVER BULLET! THE SHERIFF MAY NOT REMEMBER YOU, BUT THE BULLET WILL IDENTIFY YOU AS THE BEARER OF A MESSAGE FROM ME!
UGH! BUT. HOW TONTO GET TO-UM?

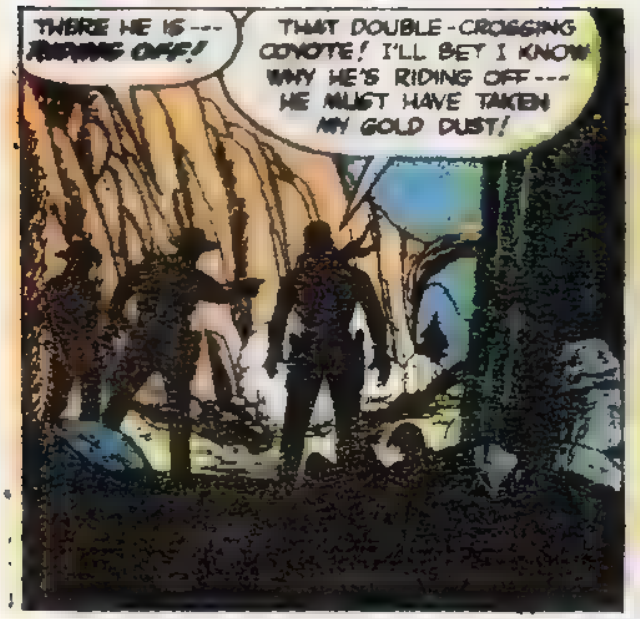
SADDLE SCOUT AND STAY BY HIM! YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO RIDE OFF IN A MINUTE!
MY GOLD DUST POUCH IS MISSING! I HAD IT LAST NIGHT WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP! YOU WERE THE HOMBRE SLEEPING NEXT TO ME --- ONLY YOU WEREN'T SLEEPING!
ARE YOU ACCUSIN' ME OF ROBBIN' YOU?
DON'T PUT ON THAT INNOCENT ACT! IT ONLY MAKES YOU LOOK MORE GUILTY!
DANGED IF I'LL STAY HERE AT THE PASS AND MISS A GOOD FIGHT!
GUARD AND EVERYONE WATCH-UM. NOW OUR CHANCE, FELLER! --- GET-UM UP, SCOUT!

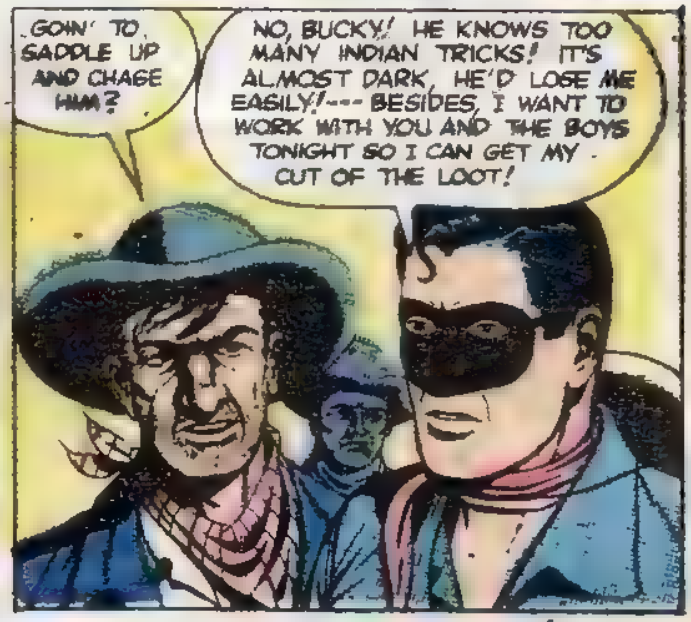
OWWW!

HOLD ON, MASKED MAN! THERE'S ONE THING WE DON'T DO HERE--- THAT'S FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES!

AND THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T ALLOW--- ANYONE TO STEAL MY GOLD DUST!
I-I NEVER EVEN SAW HIS GOLD POUCH! HONEST, BUCKY!

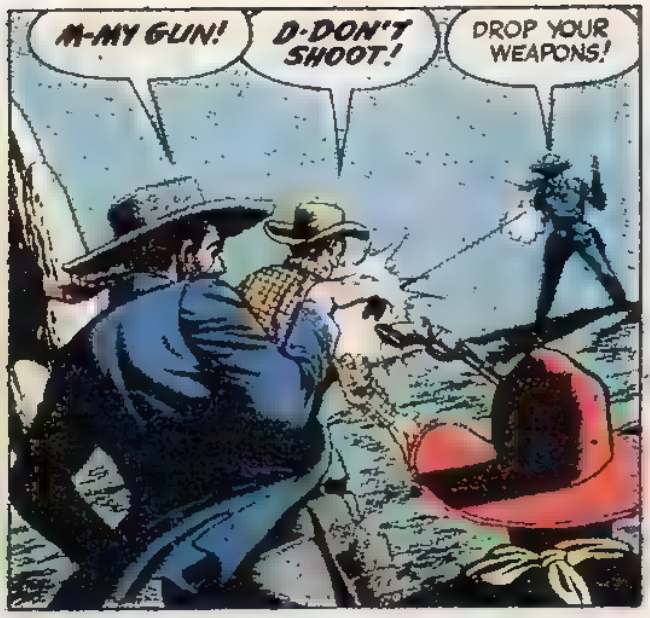
SAY!--- WHERE'S TONTO?


THERE HE IS--- RIDING OFF!
THAT DOUBLE-CROSSING COYOTE! I'LL BET I KNOW WHY HE'S RIDING OFF--- HE MUST HAVE TAKEN MY GOLD DUST!


GOIN' TO SADDLE UP AND CHASE HIM?
NO, BUCKY! HE KNOWS TOO MANY INDIAN TRICKS! IT'S ALMOST DARK, HE'D LOSE ME EASILY!--- BESIDES, I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU AND THE BOYS TONIGHT SO I CAN GET MY CUT OF THE LOOT!

MIDNIGHT---
WHIP-POOR-WILL
THERE'S THE SIGNAL! THE COAST IS CLEAR! WE CAN WORK THESE STEERS OUT THROUGH THE CUT FENCE BETTER ON FOOT! DISMOUNT!
KEEP THE HORSES QUIET AND READY!
DON'T WORRY, BUCKY! I'LL GUARD THEM WELL!
ONCE WE START THE FIRST GROUP THROUGH THE FENCE, WE'LL MOUNT UP!
SHERIFF, NOW ME SEE-UM!
WORK YOUR TRIGGERS, BOYS!
BANG! BLAM! BANG!

BANG!
BLAM!
AIEEE!
IT'S A TRAP!
BANG!
BLAM!
AIEEE!
BACK TO THE HORSES!
B-BUCKY! THE MASKED MAN IS FIRING AT US!
BANG!
BLAM!
BANG!
YEOOW!
SURRENDER, BUCKY! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ON FOOT AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RIDE OFF ON THESE HORSES!
BANG!
BANG!
RUSH HIM!
BANG!
BLAM!


M-MY GUN!
D-DON'T SHOOT!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!

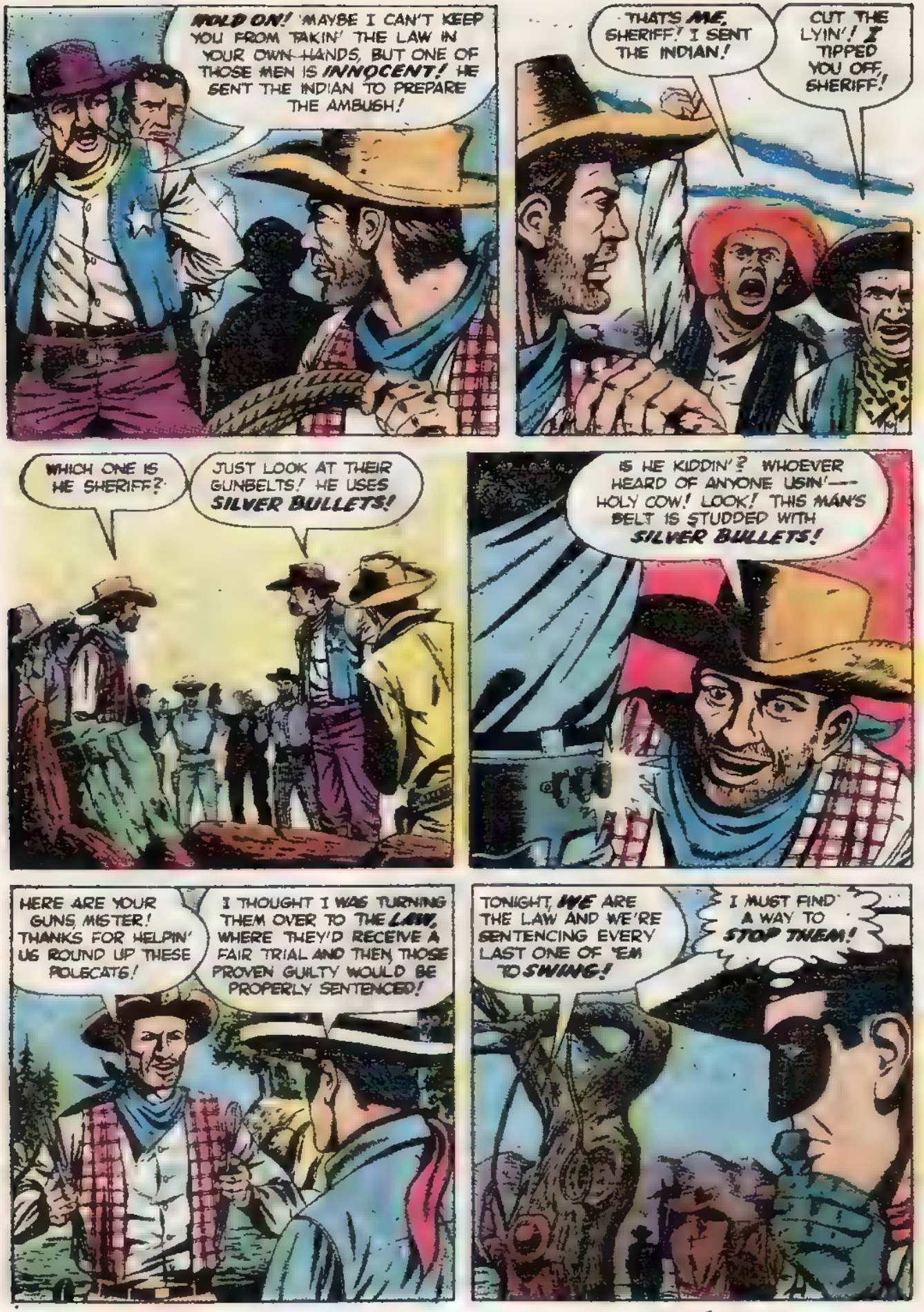
HERE THEY ARE, SHERIFF! WE'LL COLLECT THEIR HARDWARE!

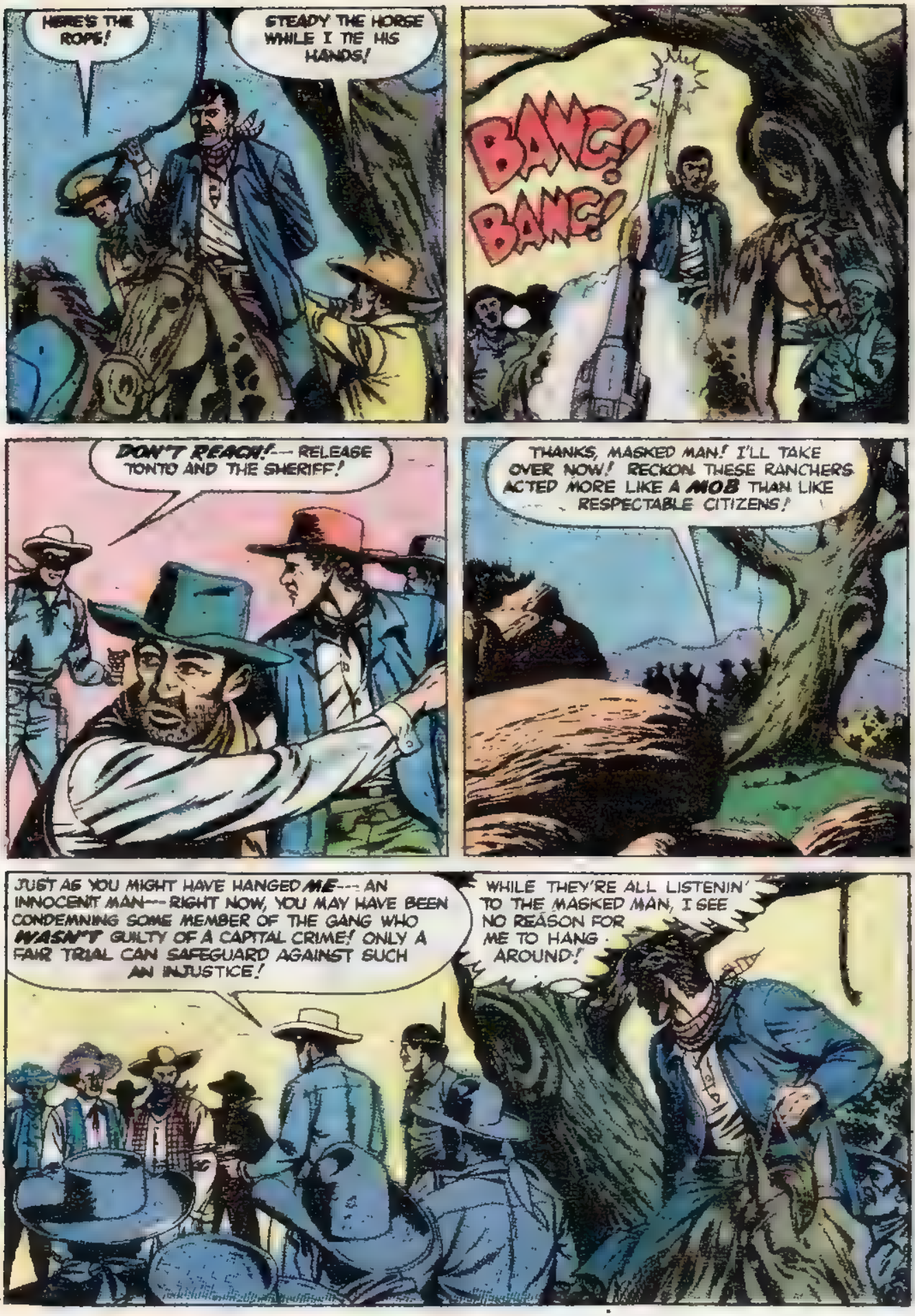
WAIT A MINUTE! I'M NOT---
---KEEP 'EM HIGH, MASKED MAN! THEN GO OVER THERE WITH THE REST OF YOUR OWLHOOT PALS.

BEFORE THE LONE RANGER CAN PROTEST, HE IS DISARMED, AS SUDDENLY---
THE OUTLAWS ARE COVERED, NOW GRAB THE INDIAN AND THE SHERIFF!

HEY! WHAT IN THUNDERATION'S GOIN' ON HERE?
EASY, SHERIFF! YOU'LL NOT BE HURT! BUT WE KNOW YOU'D NEVER CONSENT TO A LYNCHING!

LYNCHING?
YES, SHERIFF! WE RANCHERS HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH FROM THESE OUTLAWS! THEY'LL ALL GET THEIR JUST DESERTS AT A ROPE'S END!

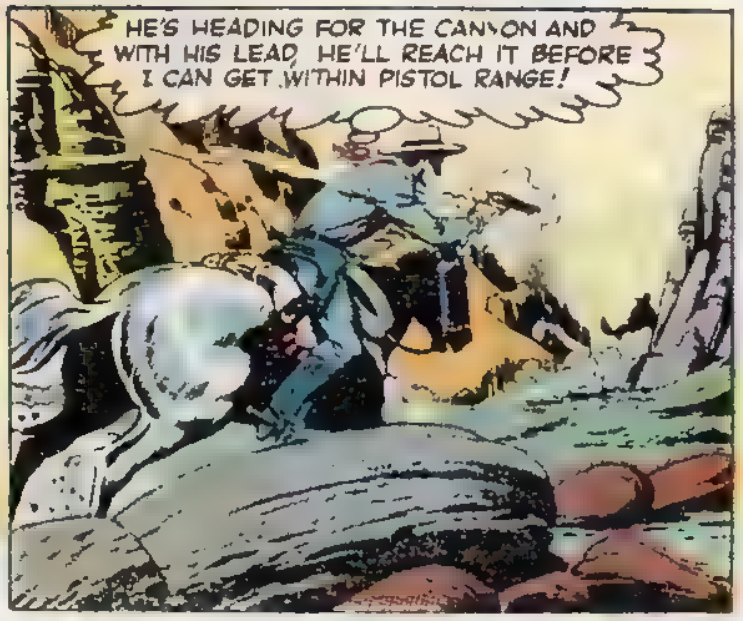

HOLD ON! MAYBE I CAN'T KEEP YOU FROM TAKIN' THE LAW IN YOUR OWN HANDS, BUT ONE OF THOSE MEN IS INNOCENT! HE SENT THE INDIAN TO PREPARE THE AMBUSH!
THAT'S ME, SHERIFF! I SENT THE INDIAN!
CUT THE LYIN'! I TIPPED YOU OFF, SHERIFF!
WHICH ONE IS HE SHERIFF?
JUST LOOK AT THEIR GUNBELTS! HE USES SILVER BULLETS!
IS HE KIDDIN'? WHOEVER HEARD OF ANYONE USIN'— HOLY COW! LOOK! THIS MAN'S BELT IS STUDDED WITH SILVER BULLETS!
HERE ARE YOUR GUNS, MISTER! THANKS FOR HELPIN' US ROUND UP THESE POLECATS!
I THOUGHT I WAS TURNING THEM OVER TO THE LAW, WHERE THEY'D RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL AND THEN THOSE PROVEN GUILTY WOULD BE PROPERLY SENTENCED!
TONIGHT, WE ARE THE LAW AND WE'RE SENTENCING EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM TO SWING!
I MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM!

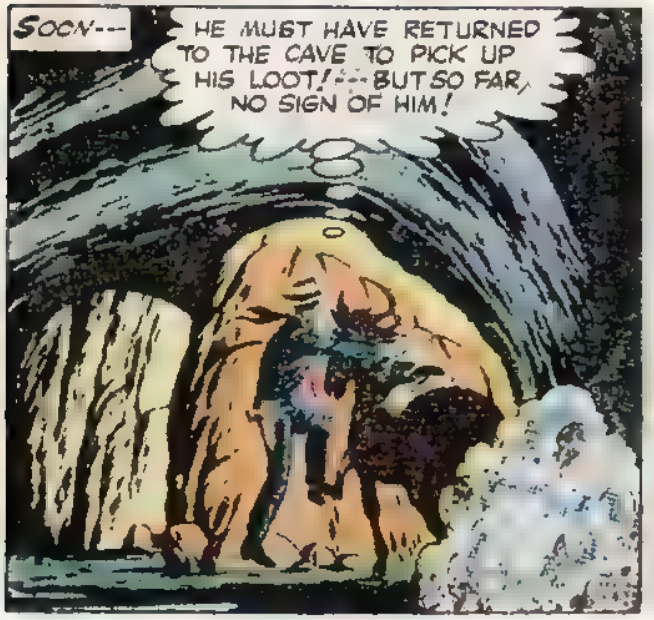

HERE'S THE ROPE!
STEADY THE HORSE WHILE I TIE HIS HANDS!
BANG! BANG!
DON'T REACH!— RELEASE TONTO AND THE SHERIFF!
THANKS, MASKED MAN! I'LL TAKE OVER NOW! RECKON THESE RANCHERS ACTED MORE LIKE A MOB THAN LIKE RESPECTABLE CITIZENS!
JUST AS YOU MIGHT HAVE HANGED ME— AN INNOCENT MAN— RIGHT NOW, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN CONDEMNING SOME MEMBER OF THE GANG WHO WASN'T GUILTY OF A CAPITAL CRIME! ONLY A FAIR TRIAL CAN SAFEGUARD AGAINST SUCH AN INJUSTICE!
WHILE THEY'RE ALL LISTENIN' TO THE MASKED MAN, I SEE NO REASON FOR ME TO HANG AROUND!

GIDDAP!

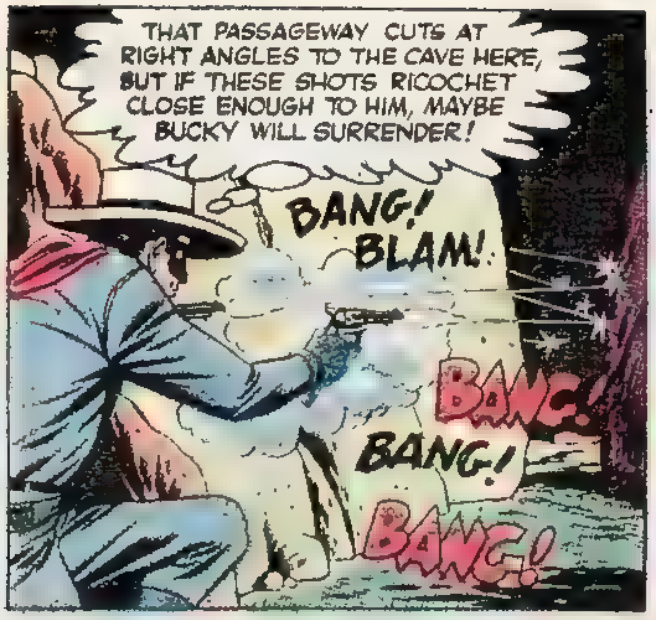
KEMO SABAY---
---BUCKY IS RIDING OFF!

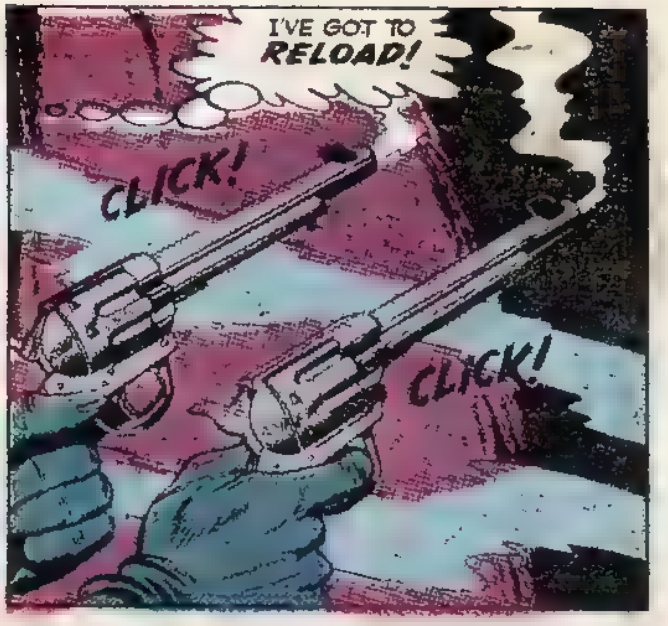
COME ON, SILVER! LET'S GO, BIG FELLOW!

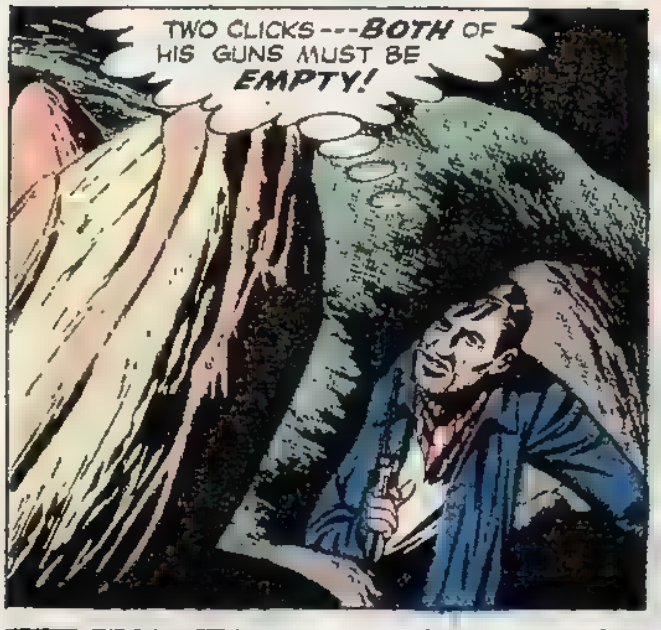

HE'S HEADING FOR THE CANYON AND WITH HIS LEAD, HE'LL REACH IT BEFORE I CAN GET WITHIN PISTOL RANGE!


SOON---
HE MUST HAVE RETURNED TO THE CAVE TO PICK UP HIS LOOT!---BUT SO FAR, NO SIGN OF HIM!

ZING!


THAT PASSAGEWAY CUTS AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE CAVE HERE, BUT IF THESE SHOTS RICOCHET CLOSE ENOTUGH TO HIM, MAYBE BUCKY WILL SURRENDER!
BANG! BLAM!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

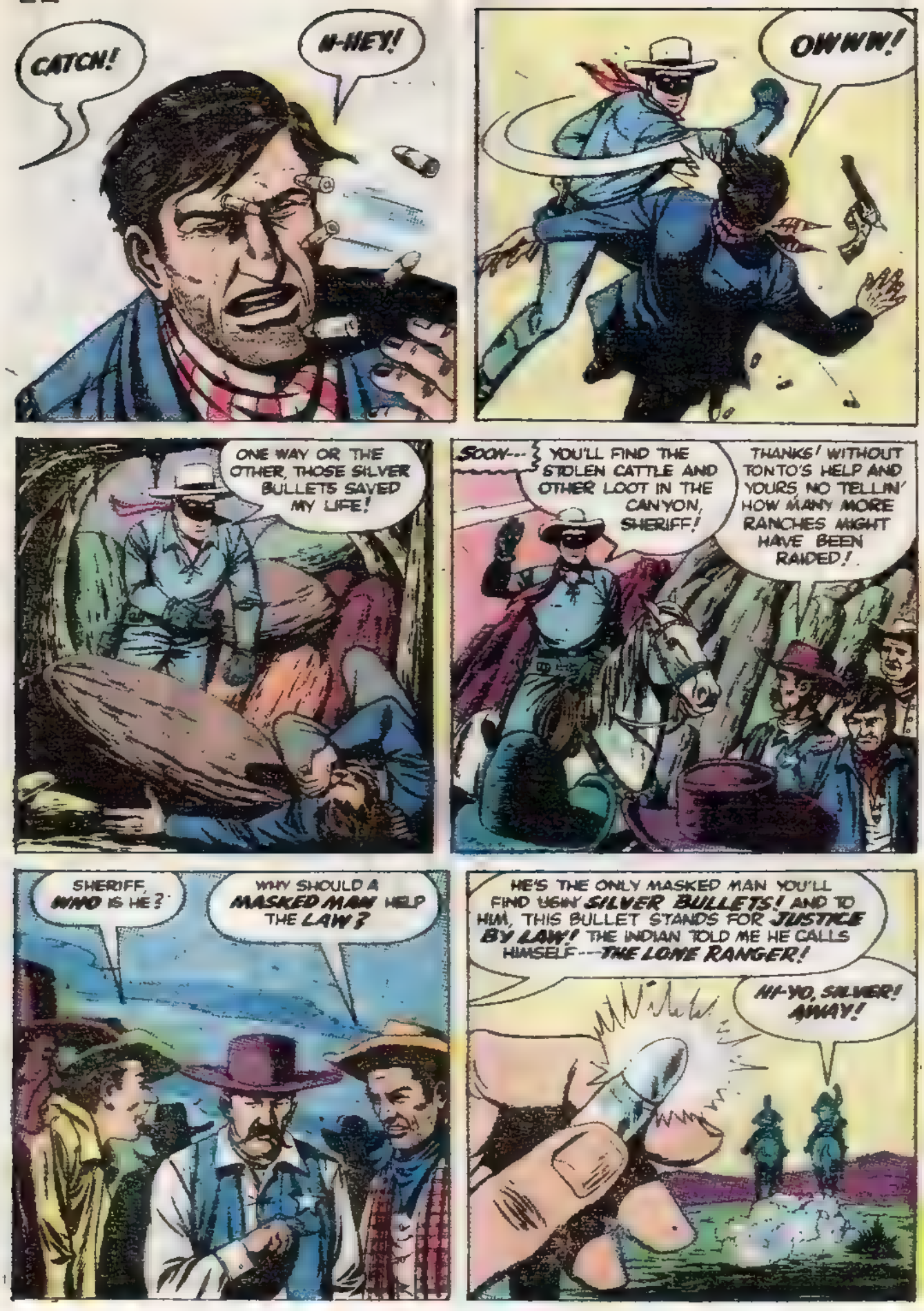

I'VE GOT TO RELOAD!
CLICK!
CLICK!


TWO CLICKS---BOTH OF HIS GUNS MUST BE EMPTY!

I'LL FIX THAT MASKED MAN FOR HIS TREACHERY!

HERE ARE THE BULLETS, NOW TO GET THEM INTO THE CYLINDER!

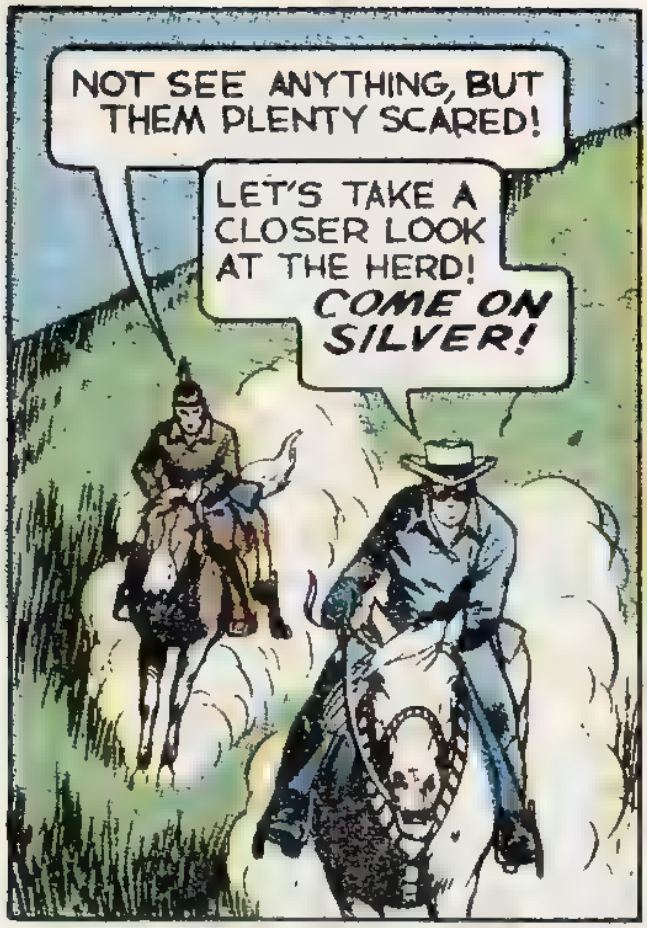
WHEN I FINISH WITH YOU, THERE'LL BE MORE THAN TWO HOLES IN YOUR MASK!

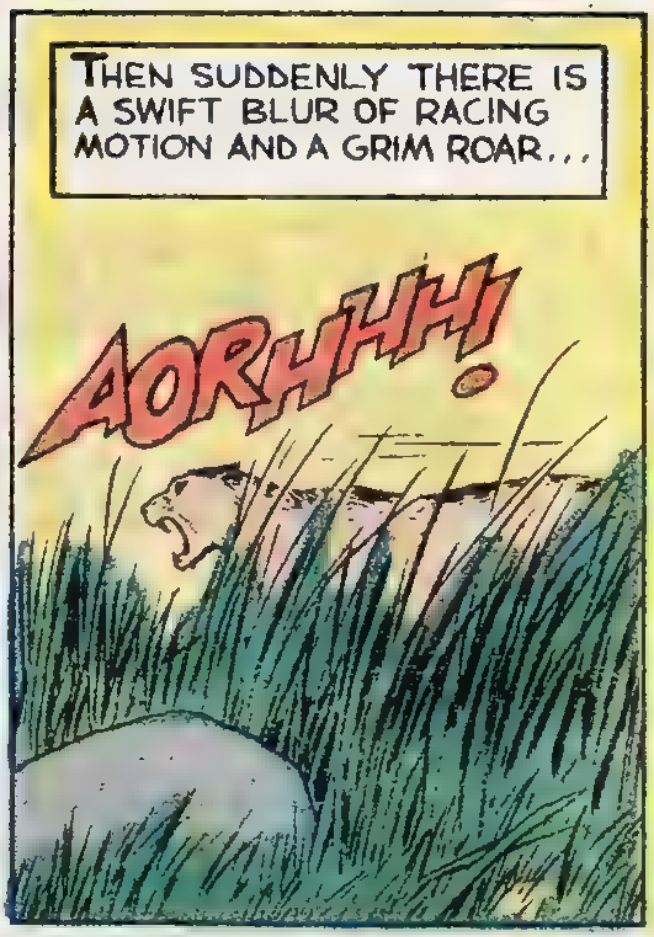

CATCH!
H-HEY!
OWWW!
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THOSE SILVER BULLETS SAVED MY LIFE!
SOON--- YOU'LL FIND THE STOLEN CATTLE AND OTHER LOOT IN THE CANYON, SHERIFF!
THANKS! WITHOUT TONTO'S HELP AND YOURS, NO TELLIN' HOW MANY MORE RANCHES MIGHT HAVE BEEN RAIDED!
SHERIFF, WHO IS HE?
WHY SHOULD A MASKED MAN HELP THE LAW?
HE'S THE ONLY MASKED MAN YOU'LL FIND USIN' SILVER BULLETS! AND TO HIM, THIS BULLET STANDS FOR JUSTICE BY LAW! THE INDIAN TOLD ME HE CALLS HIMSELF---THE LONE RANGER!
HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

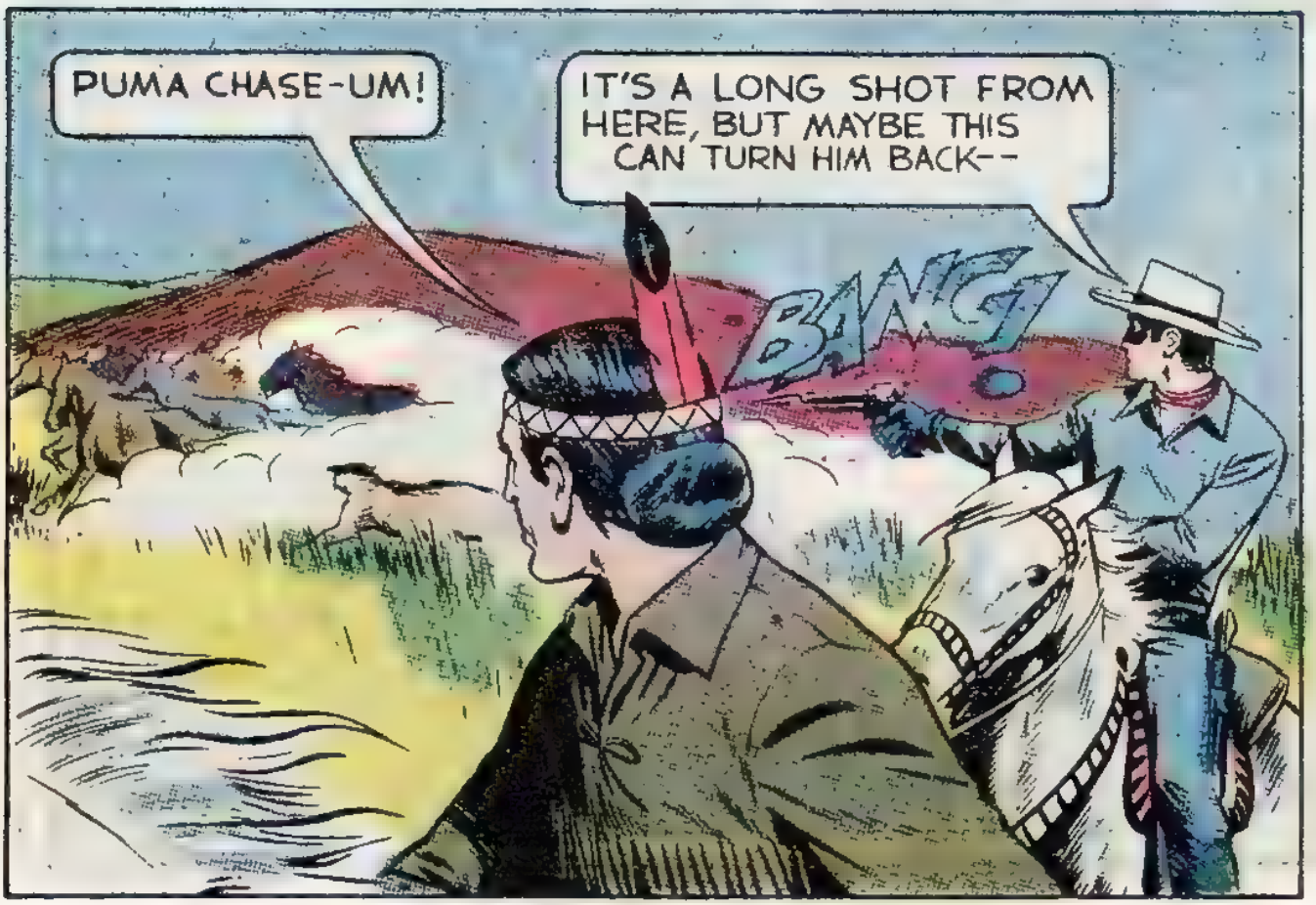
THE LONE RANGER

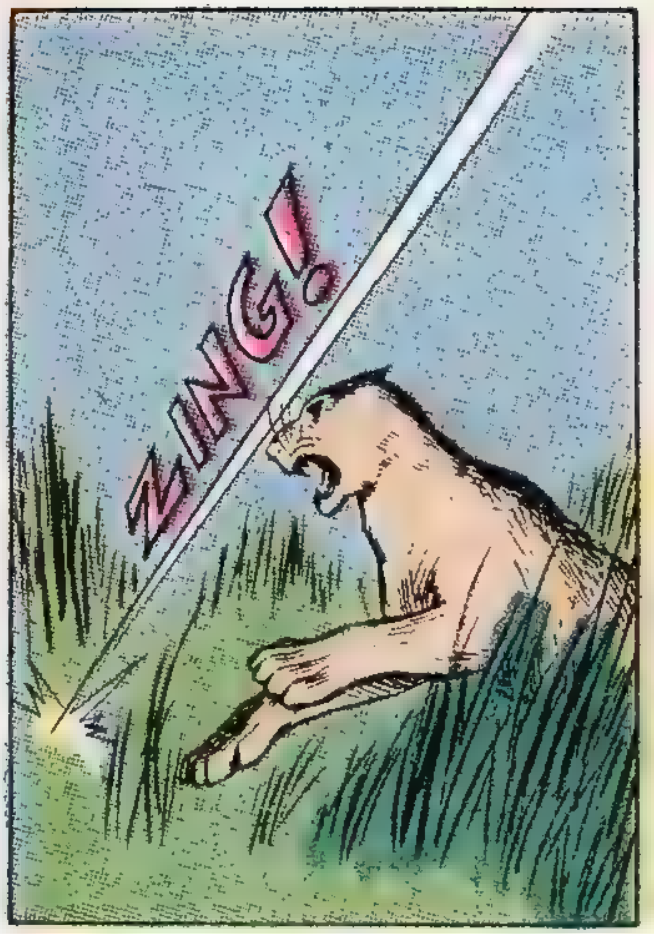
the CUNNING HUNTER

KEMO SABAY, THEM STAMPEDE!
YES, TONTO, BUT WHAT HAS SCARED THAT HERD?
AS THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO RIDE, THEY HEAR THE FRIGHTENED WHINNYING OF GALLOPING HORSES...

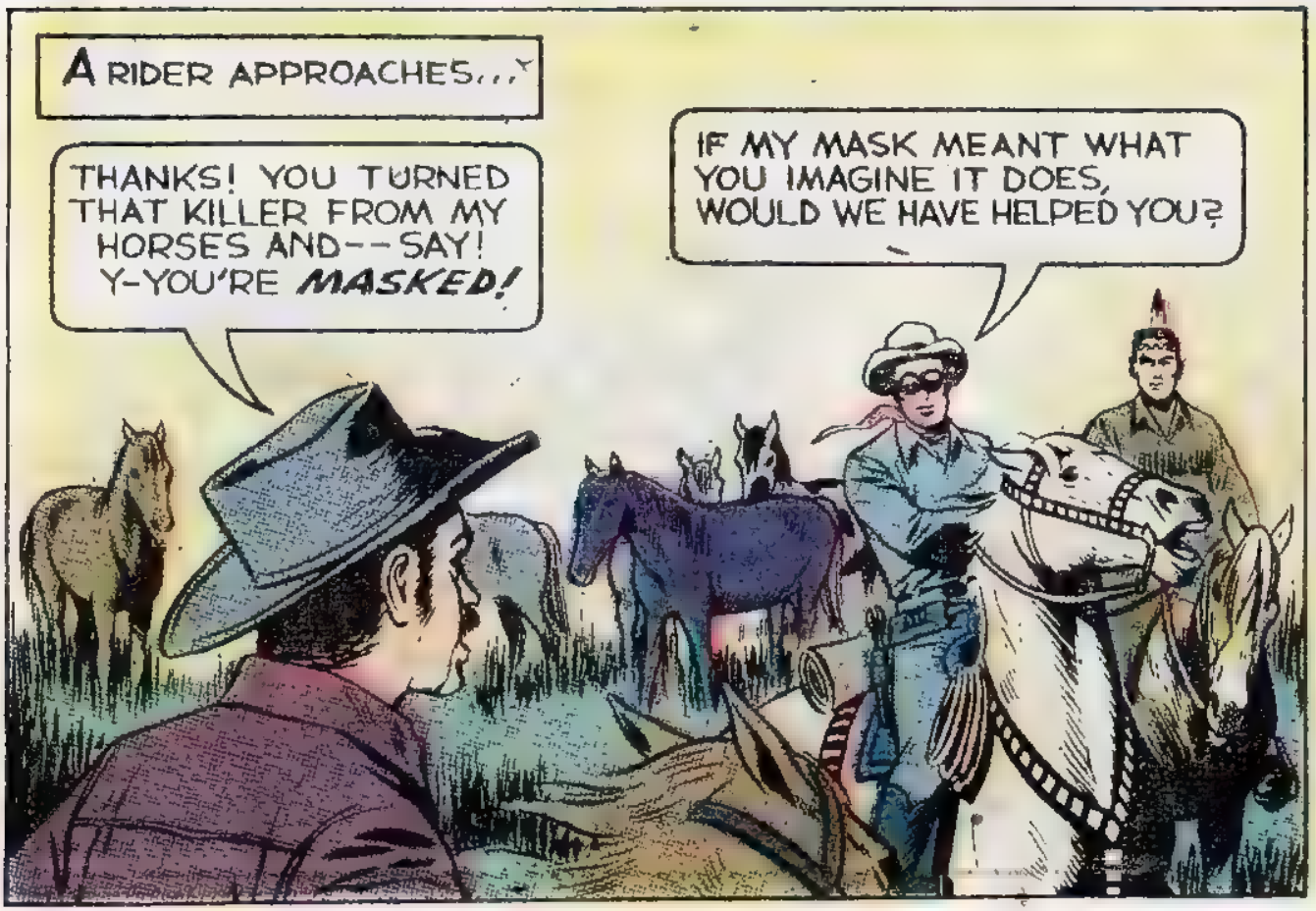

NOT SEE ANYTHING, BUT THEM PLENTY SCARED!
LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HERD! COME ON SILVER!

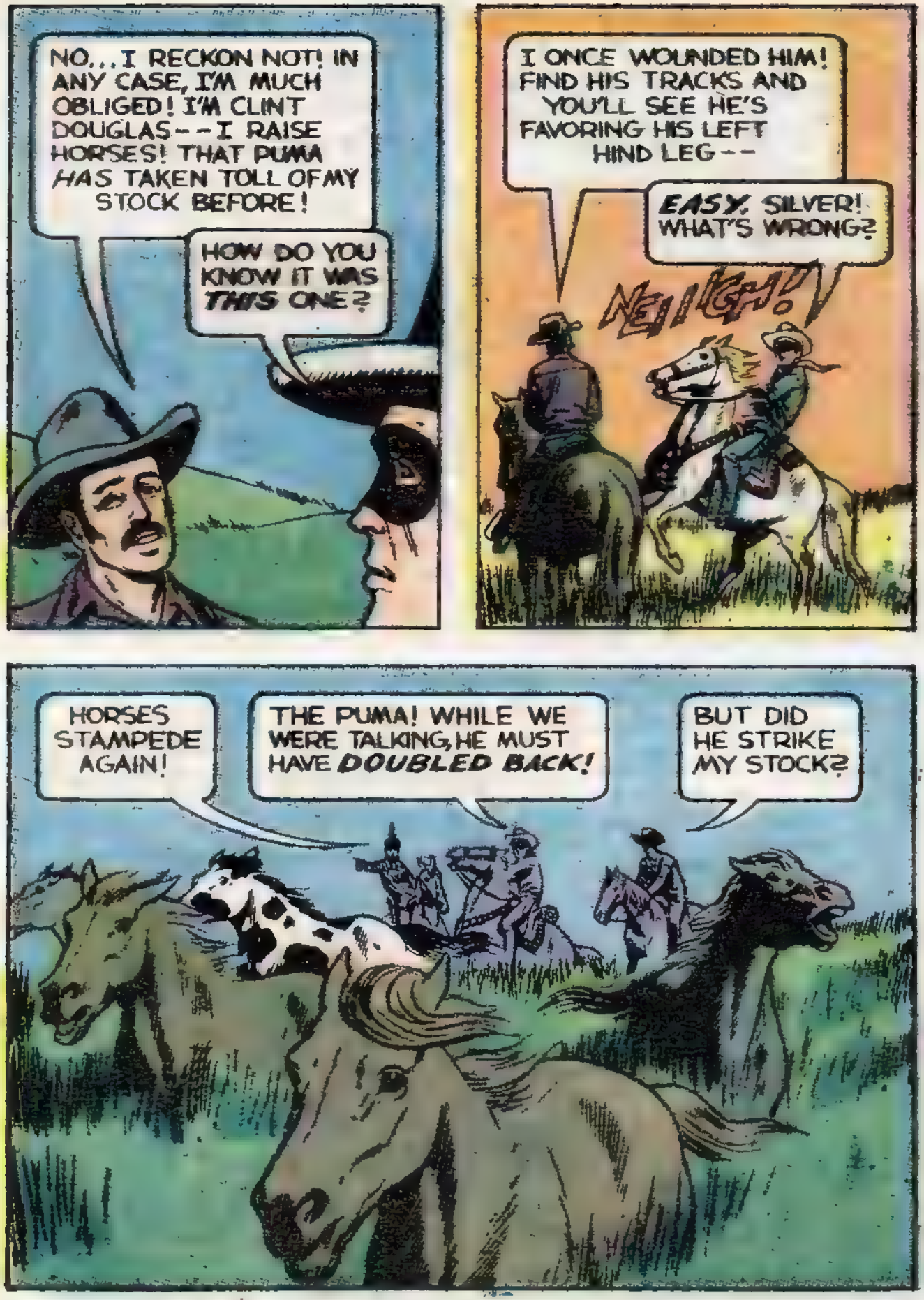

THEN SUDDENLY THERE IS A SWIFT BLUR OF RACING MOTION AND A GRIM ROAR...
AORHHH!


PUMA CHASE-UM!
IT'S A LONG SHOT FROM HERE, BUT MAYBE THIS CAN TURN HIM BACK--
BANG!

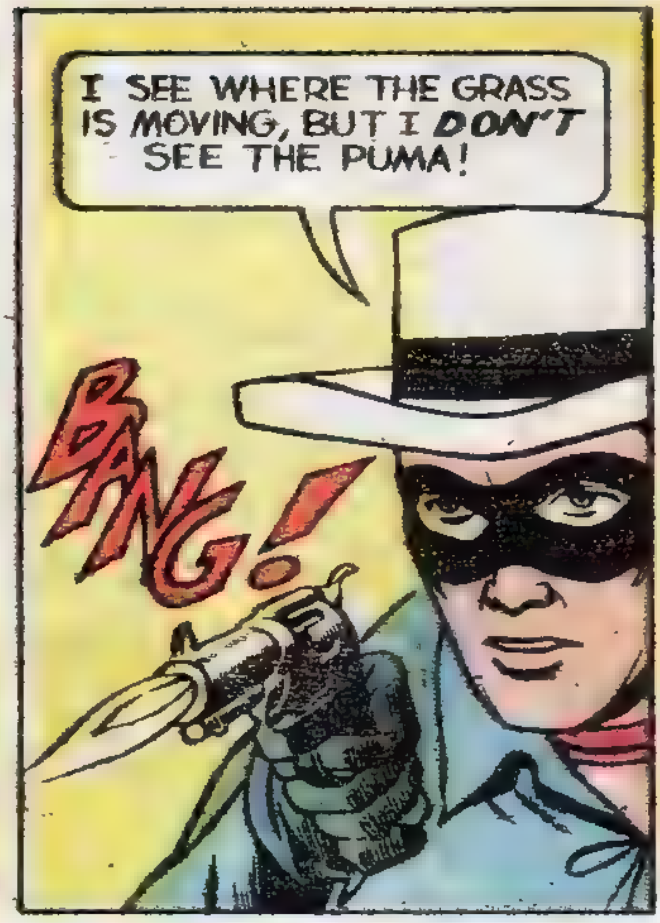

ZING!

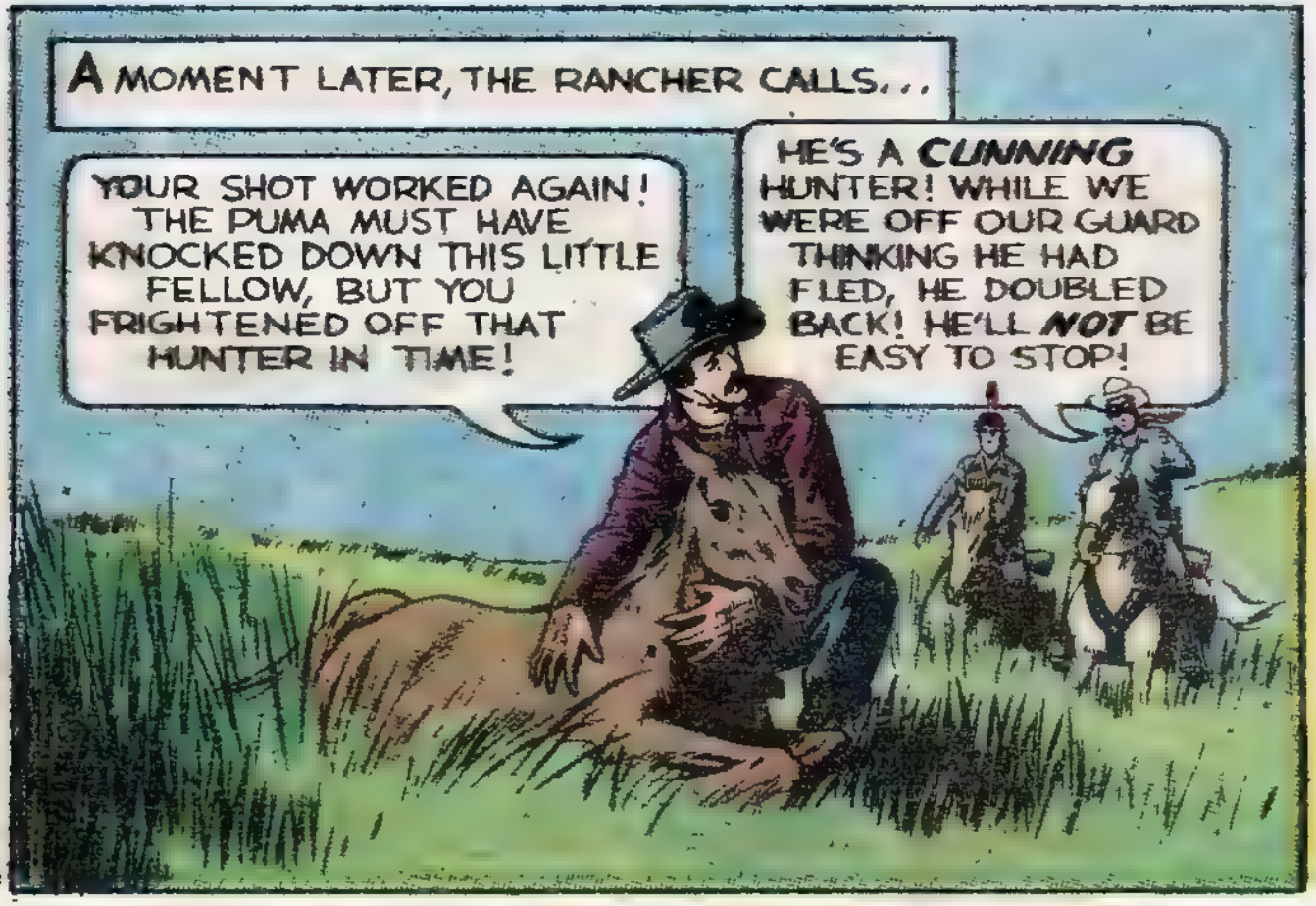
YOUR SHOT SCARE-UM OFF, KEMO SABAY! PUMA RUN PLENTY FAST!
THE HORSES SHOULD BE SAFE NOW!

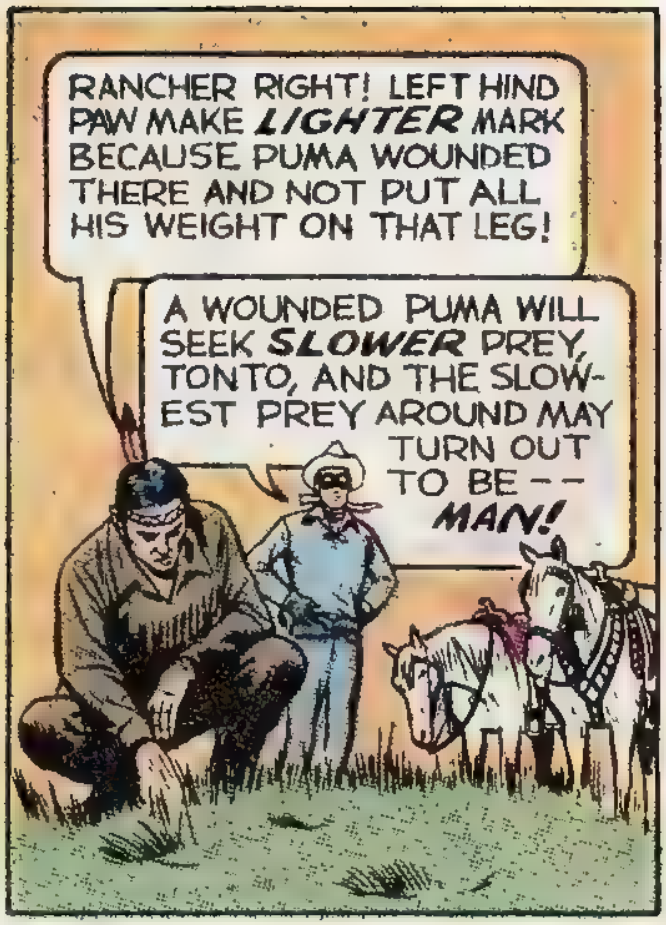

A RIDER APPROACHES...
THANKS! YOU TURNED THAT KILLER FROM MY HORSES AND--SAY! Y-YOU'RE MASKED!
IF MY MASK MEANT WHAT YOU IMAGINE IT DOES, WOULD WE HAVE HELPED YOU?


NO...I RECKON NOT! IN ANY CASE, I'M MUCH OBLIGED! I'M CLINT DOUGLAS--I RAISE HORSES! THAT PUMA *HAS* TAKEN TOLL OF MY STOCK BEFORE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS *THIS* ONE?
I ONCE WOUNDED HIM! FIND HIS TRACKS AND YOU'LL SEE HE'S FAVORING HIS LEFT HIND LEG--
EASY, SILVER! WHAT'S WRONG?
NEIGH!
HORSES STAMPEDE AGAIN!
THE PUMA! WHILE WE WERE TALKING, HE MUST HAVE *DOUBLED BACK!*
BUT DID HE STRIKE MY STOCK?

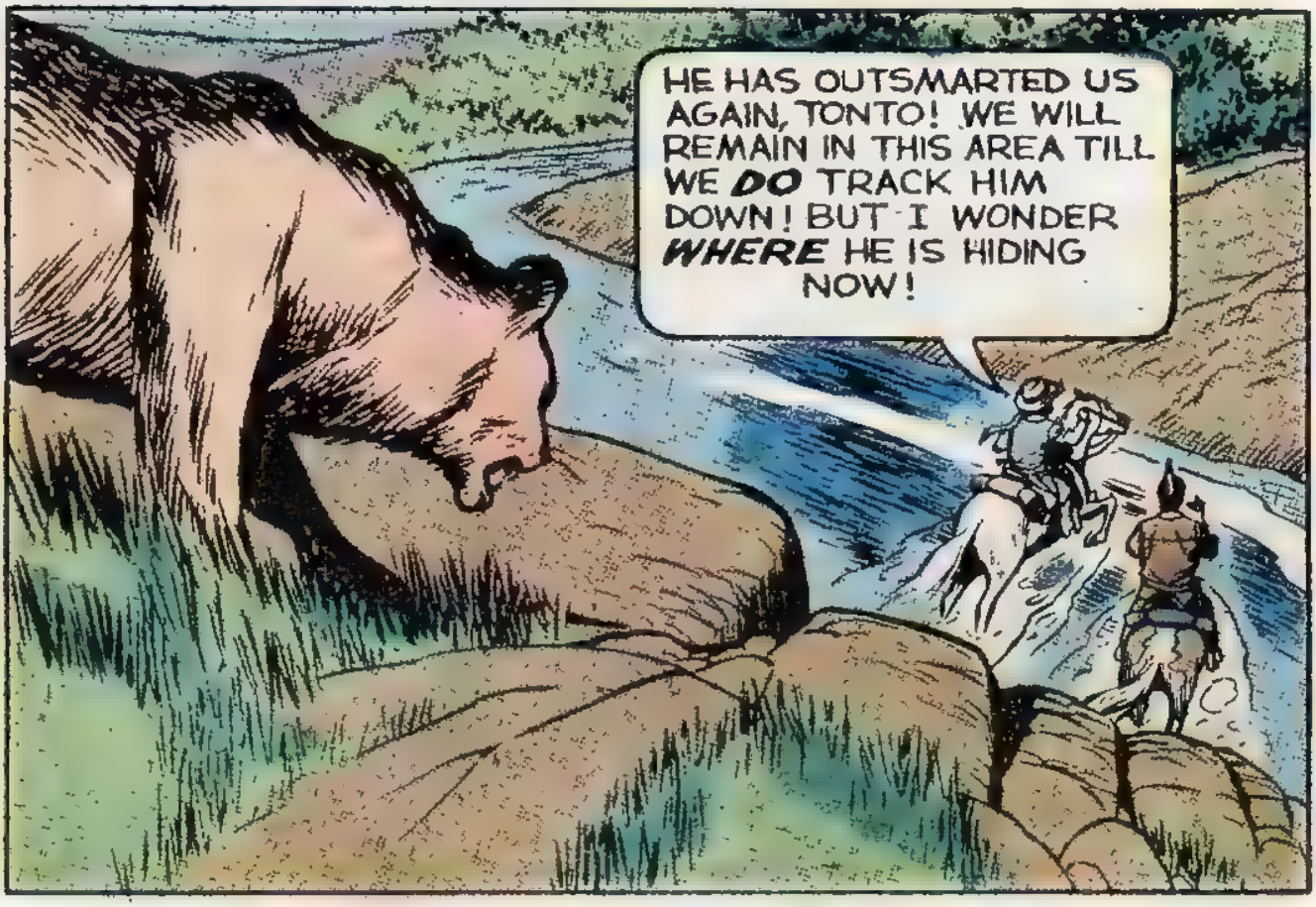
GRASS MOVE BEHIND US!
LET'S GO, BIG FELLOW!

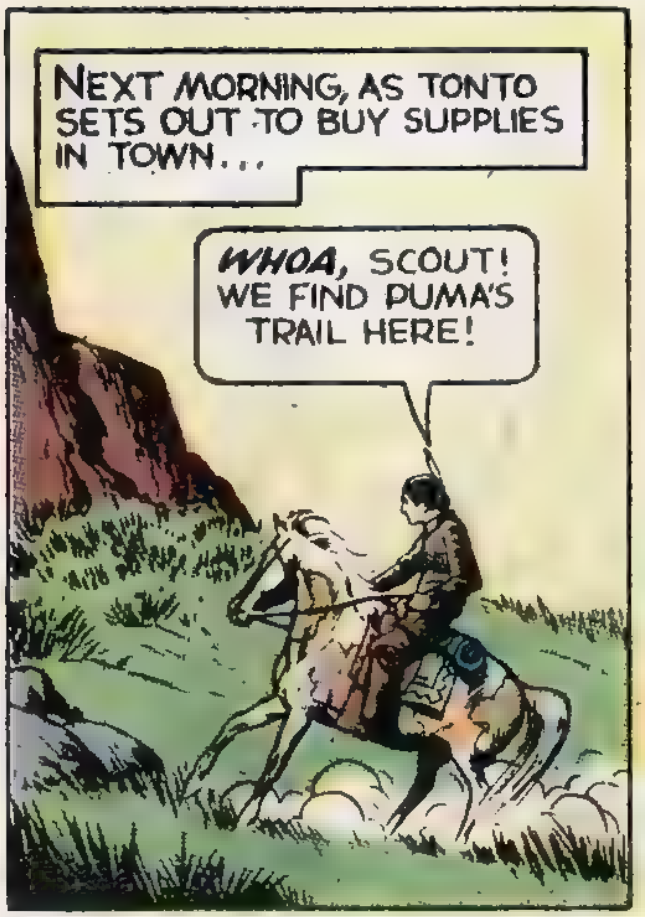

I SEE WHERE THE GRASS IS MOVING, BUT I DON'T SEE THE PUMA!
BANG!

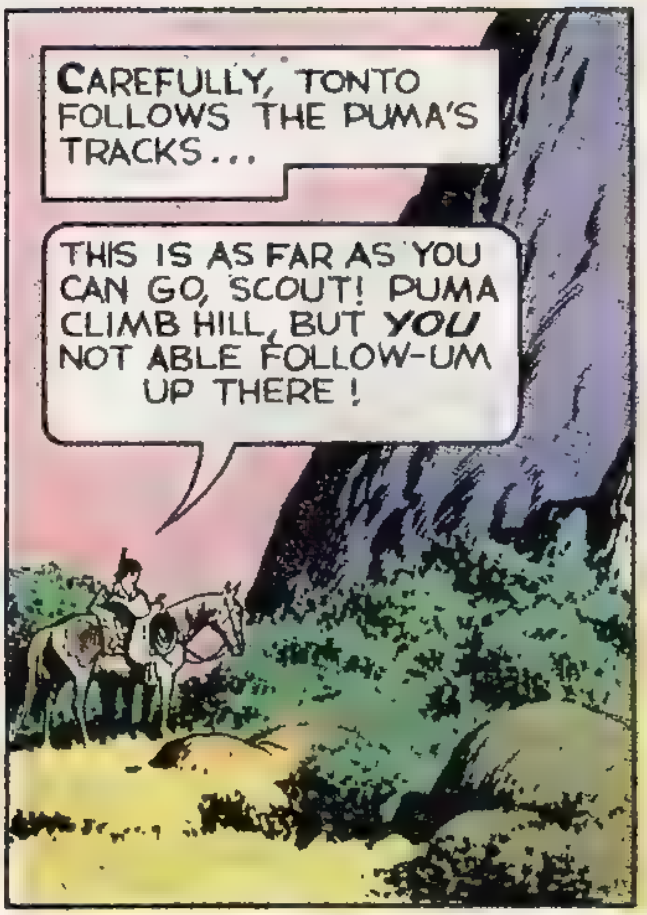

A MOMENT LATER, THE RANCHER CALLS...
YOUR SHOT WORKED AGAIN! THE PUMA MUST HAVE KNOCKED DOWN THIS LITTLE FELLOW, BUT YOU FRIGHTENED OFF THAT HUNTER IN TIME!
HE'S A CUNNING HUNTER! WHILE WE WERE OFF OUR GUARD THINKING HE HAD FLED, HE DOUBLED BACK! HE'LL NOT BE EASY TO STOP!


RANCHER RIGHT! LEFT HIND PAW MAKE LIGHTER MARK BECAUSE PUMA WOUNDED THERE AND NOT PUT ALL HIS WEIGHT ON THAT LEG!
A WOUNDED PUMA WILL SEEK SLOWER PREY, TONTO, AND THE SLOWEST PREY AROUND MAY TURN OUT TO BE -- MAN!

DETERMINED TO TRACK DOWN THE HUNTER, THEY TRAIL THE PUMA...
NO GOOD! HIM GO INTO STREAM, BUT NOT SEE WHERE HIM LEAVE WATER!


HE HAS OUTSMARTED US AGAIN, TONTO! WE WILL REMAIN IN THIS AREA TILL WE DO TRACK HIM DOWN! BUT I WONDER WHERE HE IS HIDING NOW!

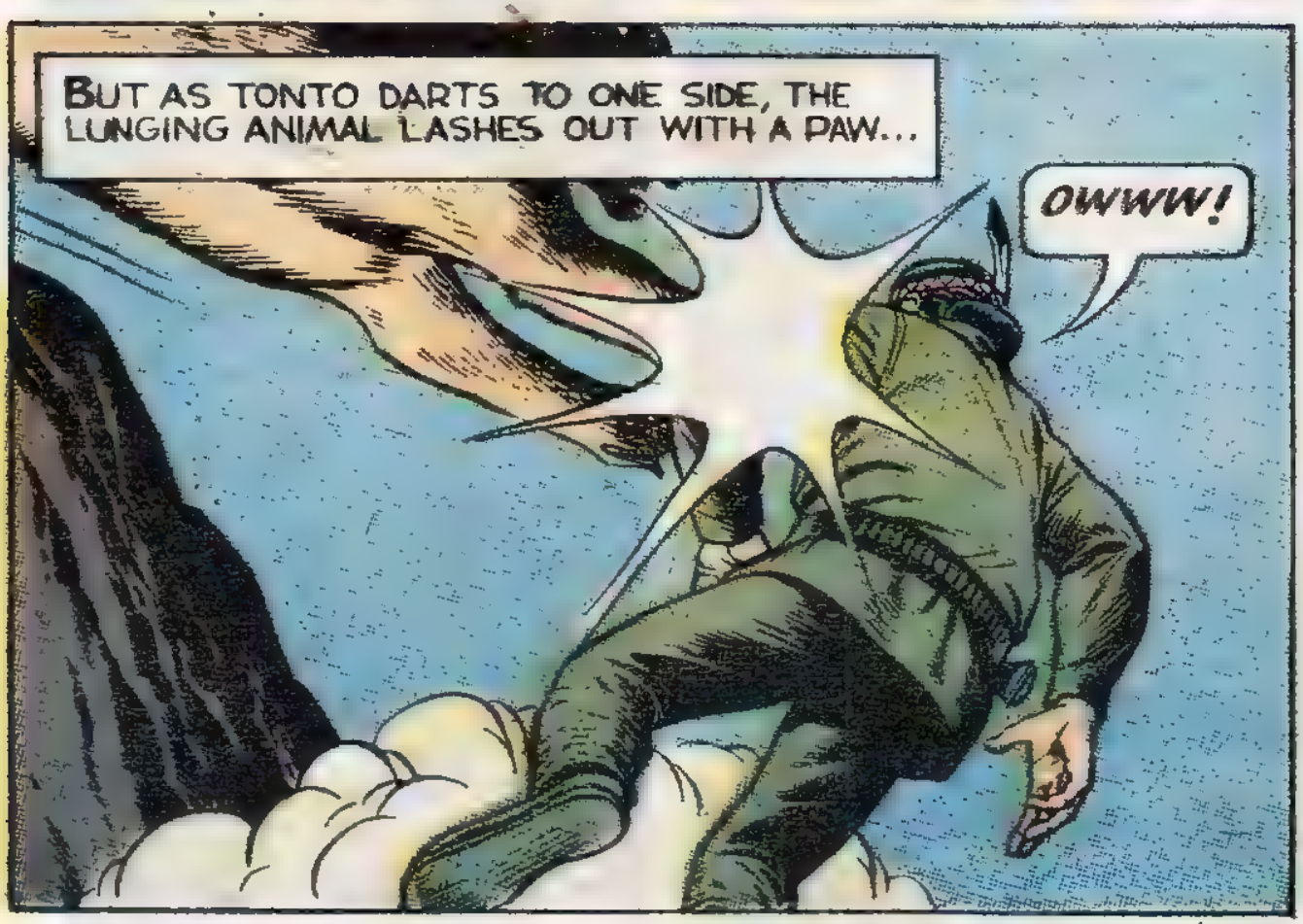

NEXT MORNING, AS TONTO SETS OUT TO BUY SUPPLIES IN TOWN...
WHOA, SCOUT! WE FIND PUMA'S TRAIL HERE!

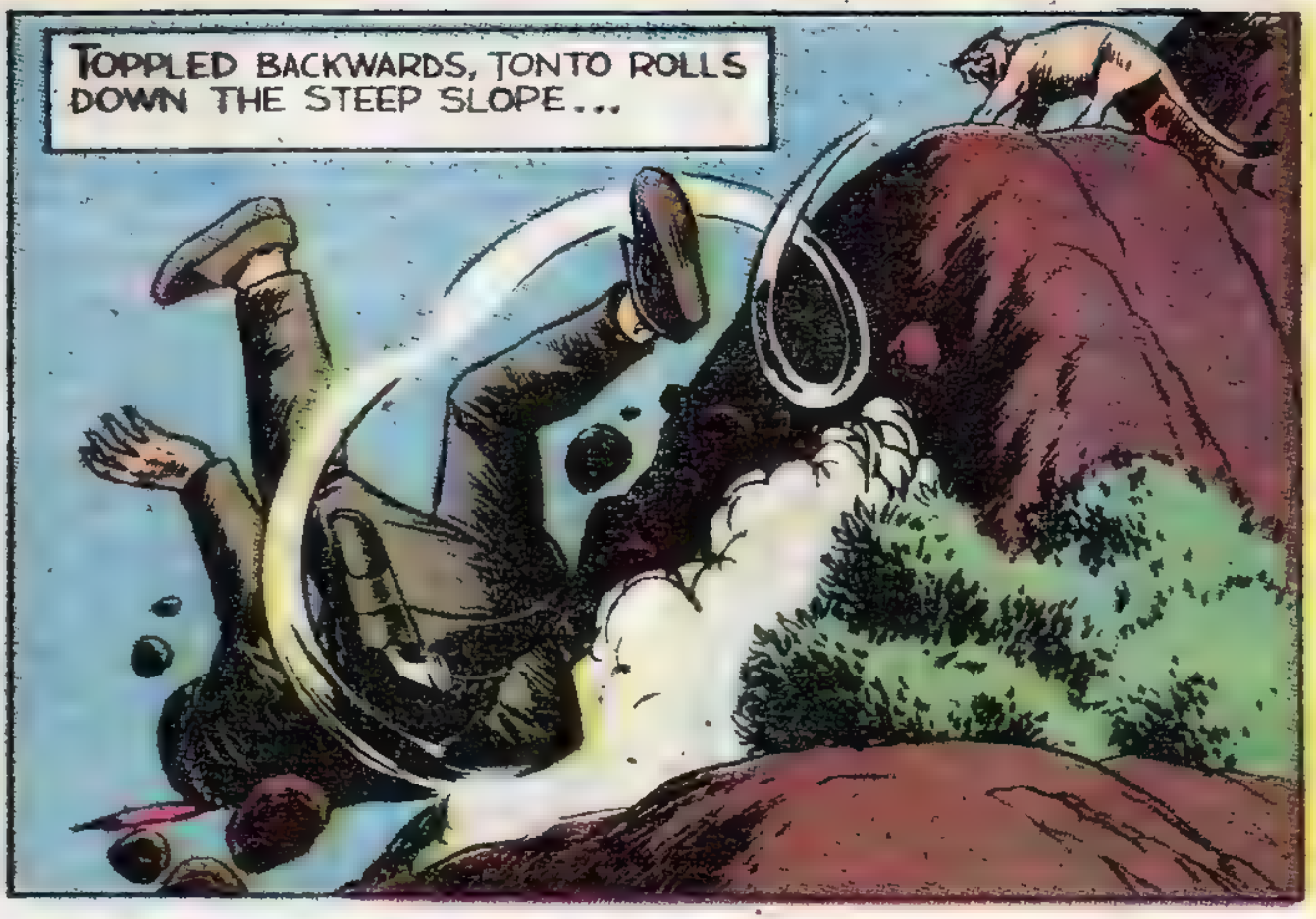

CAREFULLY, TONTO FOLLOWS THE PUMA'S TRACKS...
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO, SCOUT! PUMA CLIMB HILL, BUT YOU NOT ABLE FOLLOW-UM UP THERE!

I HAD BETTER GO UP SLOWLY IN CASE HE IS STILL ON THE HILL ABOVE ME--

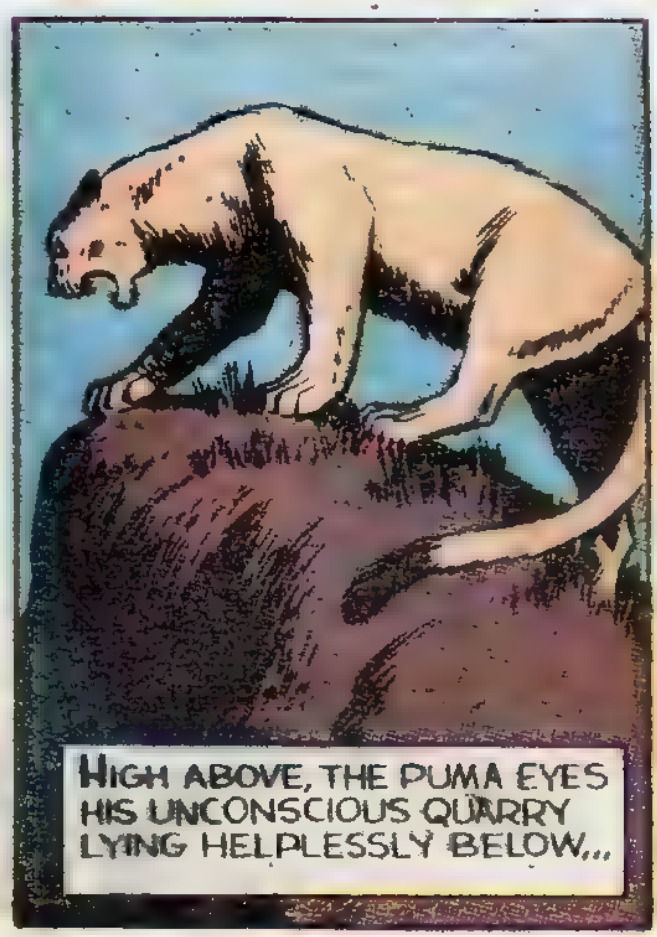
AND AS TONTO NEARS THE HILLTOP, SUDDENLY...
AOURH!

NO TIME TO DRAW AND SHOOT! IF I CAN JUST DODGE HIM---
RRRRUGH!

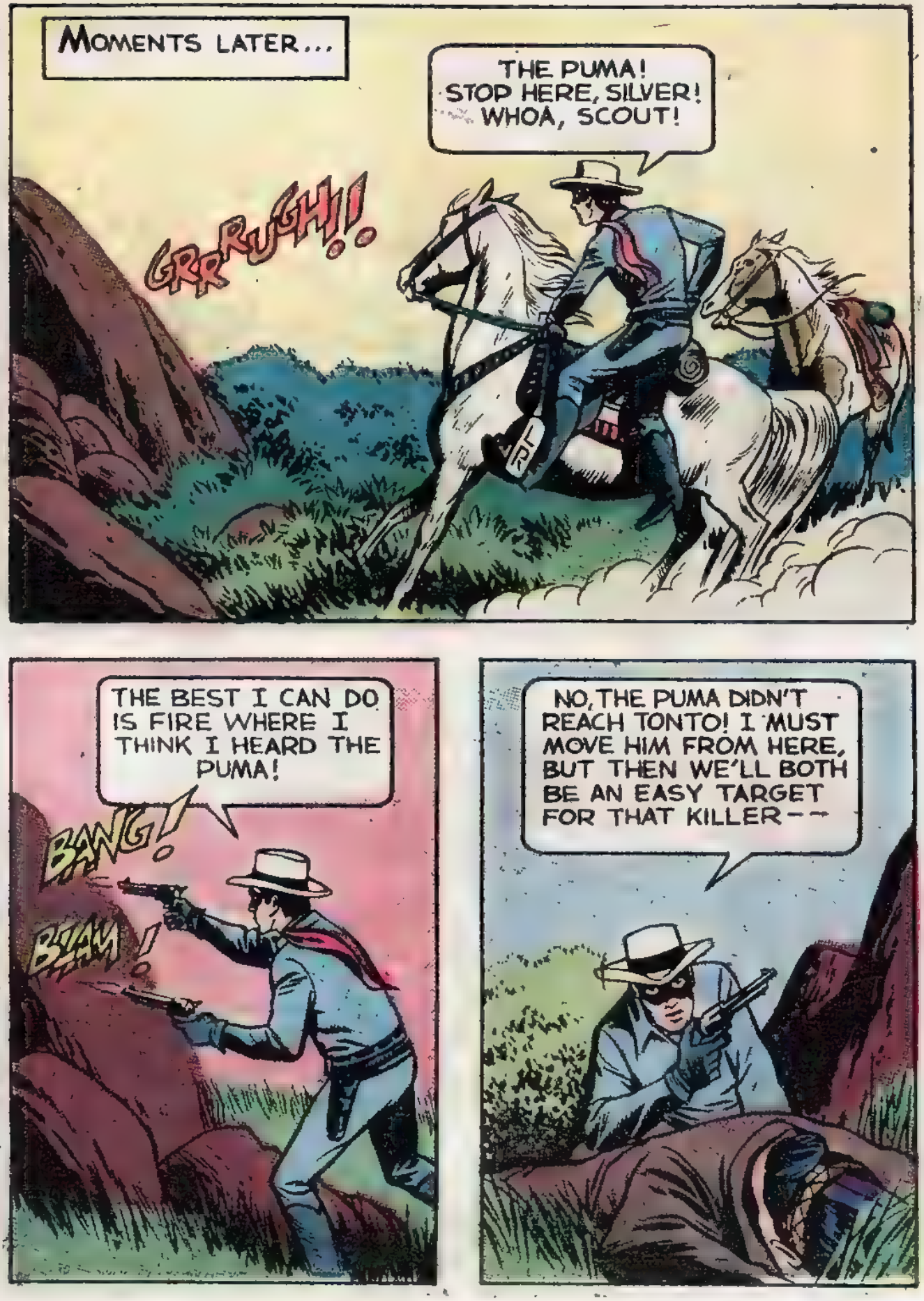

BUT AS TONTO DARTS TO ONE SIDE, THE LUNGING ANIMAL LASHES OUT WITH A PAW...
OWWW!

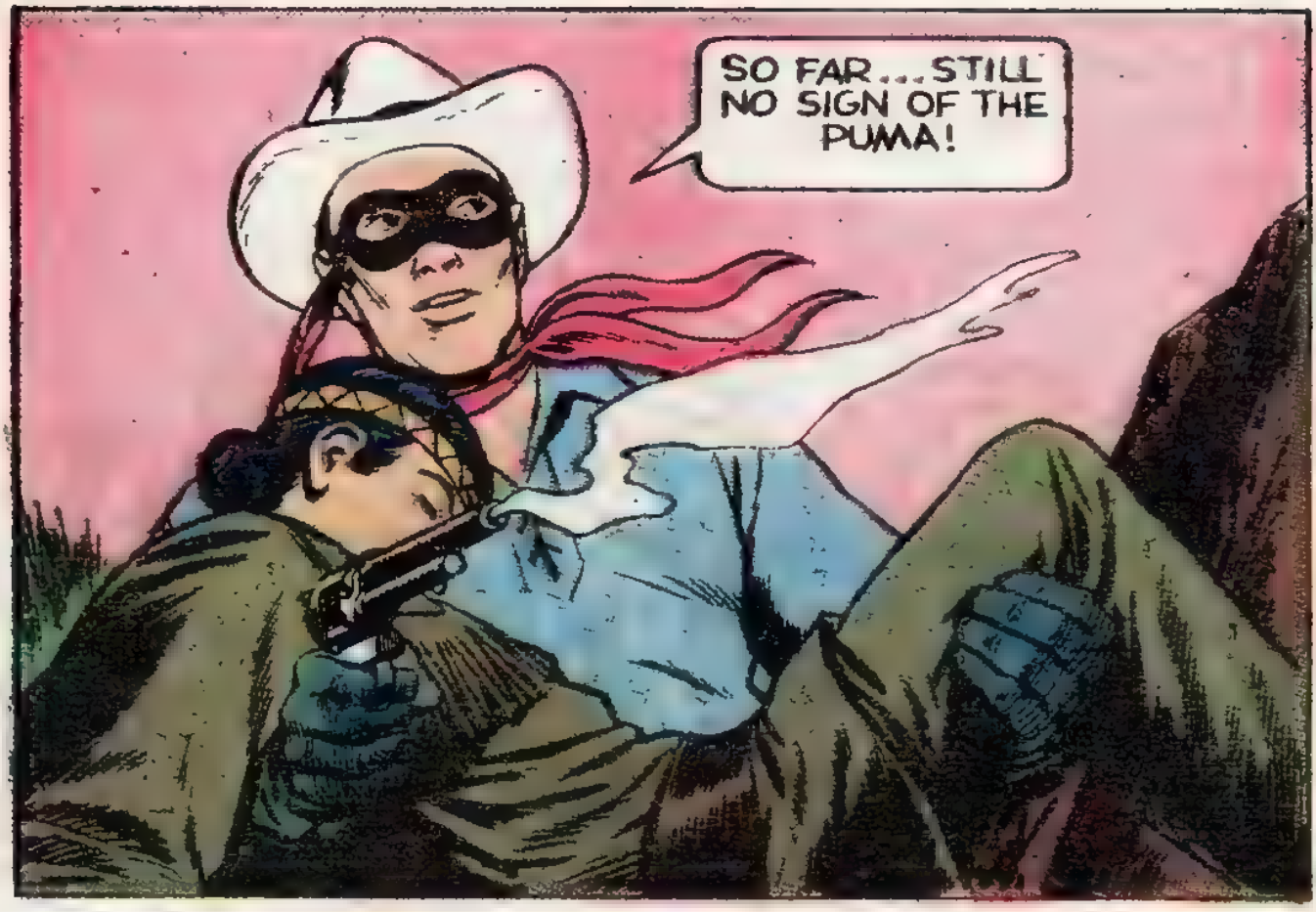

TOPPLED BACKWARDS, TONTO ROLLS DOWN THE STEEP SLOPE...

LUCKILY, SOME BUSHES BREAK HIS LONG FALL...

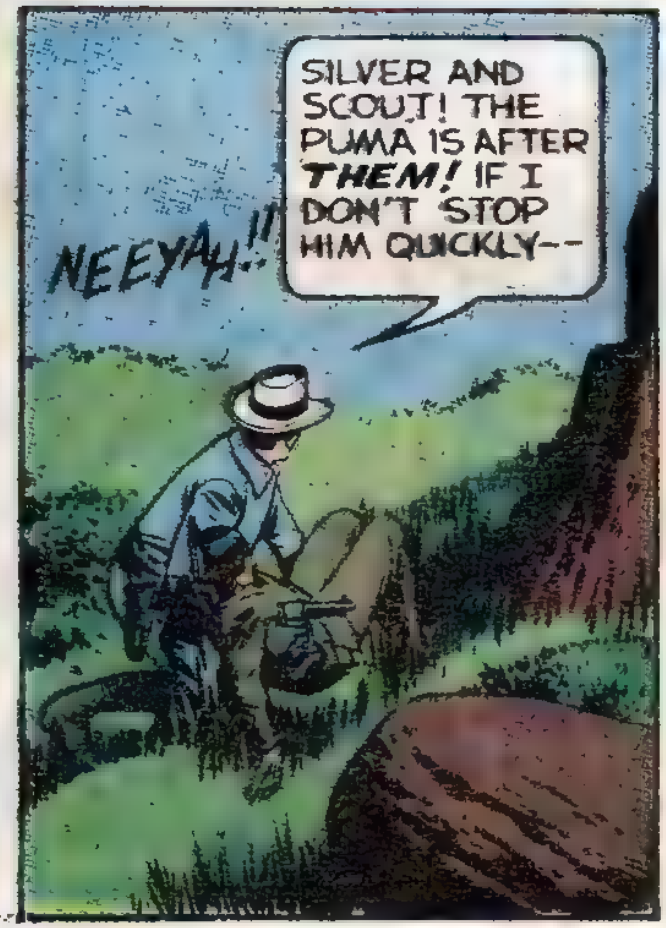

HIGH ABOVE, THE PUMA EYES HIS UNCONSCIOUS QUARRY LYING HELPLESSLY BELOW...

SCOUT GALLOPS TO HIS MOTIONLESS MASTER...
NEEYAH!
...AND THEN RACES TO THE LONE RANGER'S NEARBY CAMP...
SCOUT! WHERE IS TONTO? WHAT HAPPENED?
TAKE ME TO TONTO, SCOUT! GO!
NEIIIGH!


MOMENTS LATER...
THE PUMA! STOP HERE, SILVER! WHOA, SCOUT!
GRRRUGH!!
THE BEST I CAN DO IS FIRE WHERE I THINK I HEARD THE PUMA!
BANG!
BLAM!
NO, THE PUMA DIDN'T REACH TONTO! I MUST MOVE HIM FROM HERE, BUT THEN WE'LL BOTH BE AN EASY TARGET FOR THAT KILLER--


SO FAR... STILL NO SIGN OF THE PUMA!

AOURGGH!


NEEYAH!!
SILVER AND SCOUT! THE PUMA IS AFTER THEM! IF I DON'T STOP HIM QUICKLY--

AS THE LONE RANGER DARTS TOWARD THE FRIGHTENED HORSES, A GRIM HUNTER WATCHES SILENTLY...
SECONDS AFTER THE LONE RANGER IS OUT OF SIGHT, THE PUMA SPRINGS...
PHUUUAGH!
BUT AS THE KILLER ATTACKS A SHOT FINDS ITS MARK...
BANG!

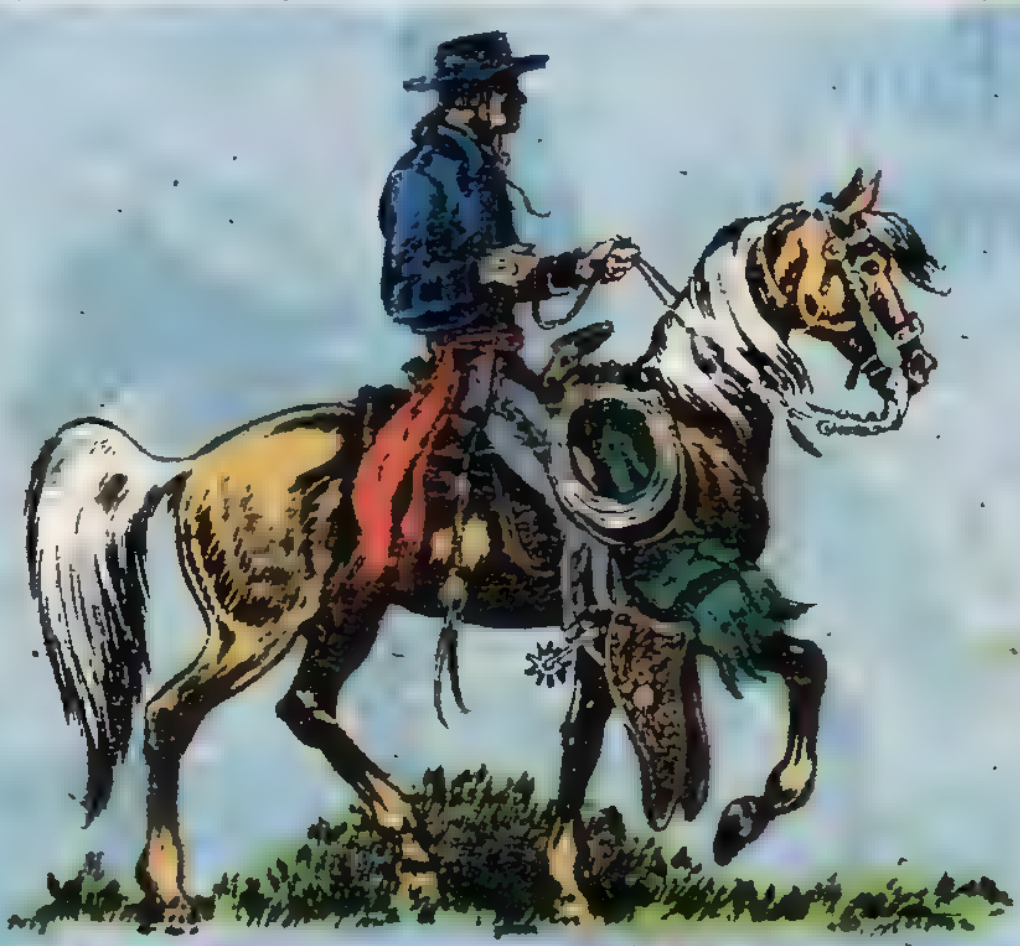
YIIII!
TONTO IS SAFE!
AS TONTO COMES TO...
THAT CUNNING HUNTER FRIGHTENED OUR HORSES SO I STARTED FOR THEM! THEN I REALIZED THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ME TO DO SO HE COULD ATTACK YOU - I TURNED BACK IN TIME!
SOON...
ALL RIGHT, FELLOWS! YOU CAN GRAZE OUT ON THE PLAINS NOW WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING HUNTED! THE HUNTER IS GONE, THANKS TO--THE LONE RANGER!
HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

Early Americans

The Plainsman

OF 125 YEARS AGO...

THE OLD-TIME PLAINSMEN, TRAPPERS AND GUIDES USUALLY WORE FRINGED BUCKSKIN CLOTHING, A COONSKIN CAP OR LARGE FLOPPY HAT, AND MOCCASINS WHICH THEY SECURED IN TRADES WITH THE INDIANS. THEY CARRIED A LONG-BARRELED MUZZLE-LOADING RIFLE. THE FIRST OF THESE GUNS WERE FLINTLOCKS BUT WERE LATER IMPROVED AND WERE FIRED BY MEANS OF A PERCUSSION CAP. ONE OF THE PLAINSMAN'S MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF EQUIPMENT WAS A HEAVY SHEATH KNIFE, SOME OF THEM HAVING BLADES AS LONG AS TWELVE INCHES.



California Vaquero

OF 100 YEARS AGO...

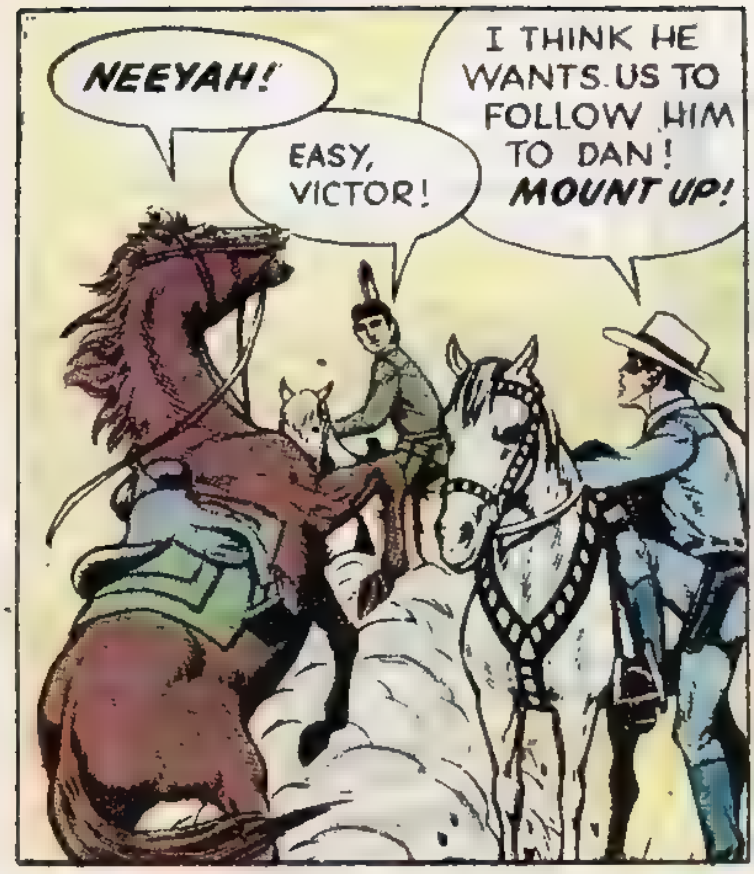
THE EARLY SPANISH-CALIFORNIA VAQUERO WAS A MARVELOUS HORSEMAN. HE WAS ALWAYS WELL MOUNTED AND FAVORED THE PALOMINO OR GOLD-COLORED HORSE WITH A WHITE MANE AND TAIL. HE TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN HIS EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS OFTEN TRIMMED WITH SILVER. HIS SADDLE HAD THE LARGE "DINNER-PLATE" HORN AND LONG TAPADEROS. HE WORE A SMALL HAT WITH A FLAT CROWN AND STRAIGHT BRIM. HIS SHORT BOLERO-STYLE JACKET AND TIGHT-FITTING PANTS WERE TRIMMED WITH GOLD OR SILVER BRAID AND HE WORE A BRIGHT-COLORED SASH. HE WAS AN EXCELLENT ROPER AND USED A LONG BRAIDED RAWHIDE REATA.

Plains Indian

OF 100 YEARS AGO...

THESE INDIANS USUALLY RODE BAREBACK BUT SOME OF THEM HAD SADDLES WHICH WERE CARVED FROM THE CROTCH OF A TREE. THEY DID NOT USE BRIDLES BUT CONTROLLED THEIR HORSES WITH A THONG FASHIONED INTO A CRUDE HALTER. THEIR WAR BONNETS WERE MADE OF EAGLE FEATHERS AND THE BROWBAND WAS TRIMMED WITH PORCUPINE QUILLS OR COLORED BEADS. MOST OF THEM CARRIED A SHIELD MADE OF BUFFALO HIDE AND A SHORT, HEAVY BUFFALO LANCE. LATER ON MANY OF THEM CARRIED RIFLES WHICH THEY SECURED FROM THE TRADERS.

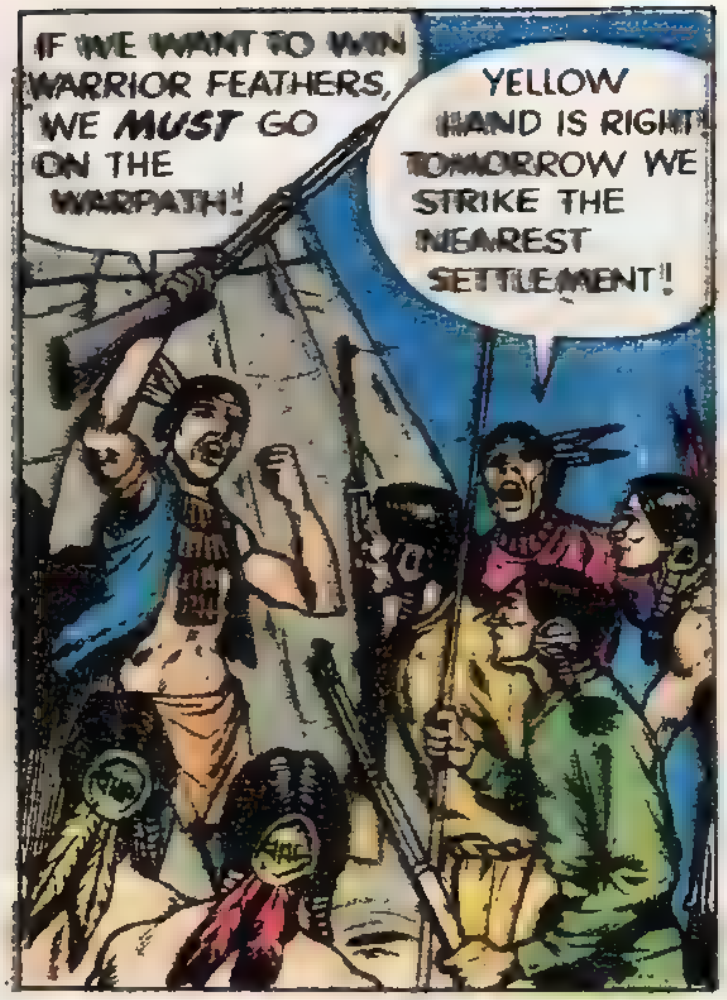
THE LONE RANGER
ON THE
WARPATH
YES, TONTO, BUT WHERE IS DAN?
KEMO SABAY, LOOK HOW VICTOR RACE BACK!
NEIIIGH!

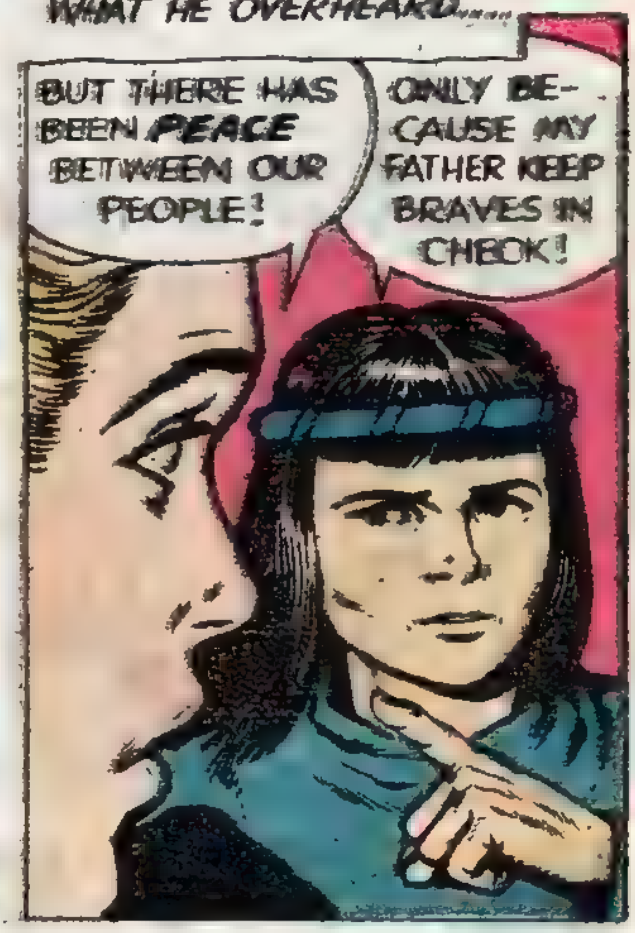


WITH DAN REID'S HORSE IN THE LEAD, THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO GALLOP AFTER VICTOR UNTIL...

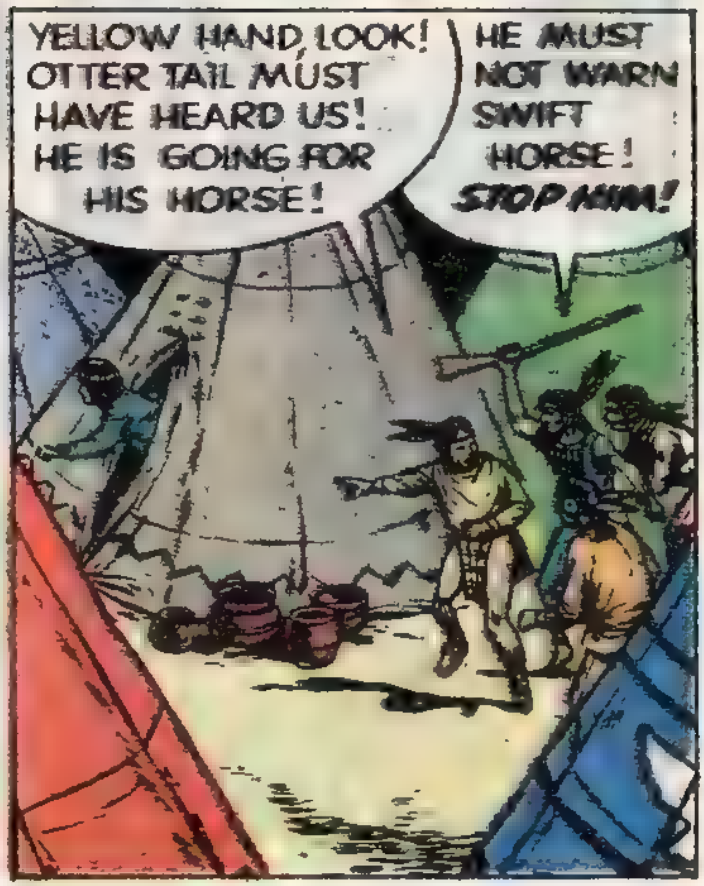
UGH! BUT IF IT BE DAN, WHERE HIM NOW?
I DON'T KNOW, TONTO, AND IT'S TOO DARK TO LOOK FOR HIS TRAIL! ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT AND WONDER TILL MORNING!

MEANWHILE, DAN REID OPENS UP HIS EYES AND LOOKS UP...
YO-YOU'RE AN INDIAN!
YES! ME, OTTER TAIL! FIND YOU UNCONSCIOUS, ARM BLEEDING! USE MY CLOTH FIX ARM!
TH-THANKS! I WAS PICKING BERRIES WHEN I SLIPPED! MY HEAD HIT A ROCK—THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!
NOT TRY TO GET UP! ME SON OF CHIEF SWIFT HORSE! YOU SAFE HERE!
BU-BUT MY UNCLE MUST BE WORRYING ABOUT ME!
LISTEN TO YELLOW HAND! NOW WE CAN GO ON THE WARPATH! WHILE CHIEF IS AWAY HUNTING, WE ATTACK THE WHITE SETTLEMENTS! THEN HE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE WHITES!
OTTER TAIL! WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU TREMBLING?


IF WE WANT TO WIN WARRIOR FEATHERS, WE MUST GO ON THE WARPATH!
YELLOW HAND IS RIGHT! TOMORROW WE STRIKE THE NEAREST SETTLEMENT!


QUICKLY, OTTER TAIL TRANSLATES WHAT HE OVERHEARD....
BUT THERE HAS BEEN PEACE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE!
ONLY BECAUSE MY FATHER KEEP BRAVES IN CHECK!

NOW MY FATHER AWAY, HUNTING BUFFALO! I MUST GO AND WARN HIM BEFORE YELLOW HAND LEAD THE RAID!

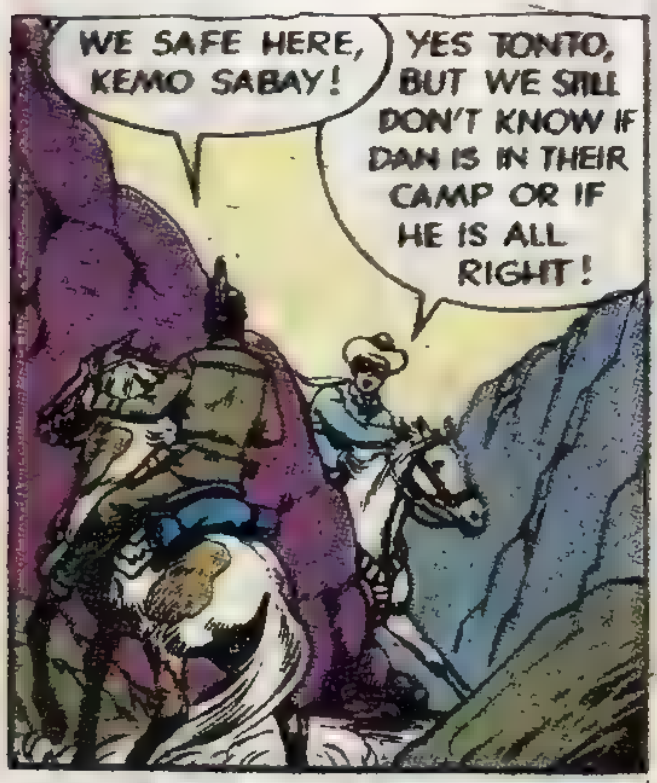

YELLOW HAND, LOOK! OTTER TAIL MUST HAVE HEARD US! HE IS GOING FOR HIS HORSE!
HE MUST NOT WARN SWIFT HORSE! STOP HIM!

LET ME GO!
GET AWAY FROM OTTER TAIL!
HE-HEY!
HOLD THEM!
I-IT'S NO USE, OTTER TAIL! I CAN'T HELP YOU!

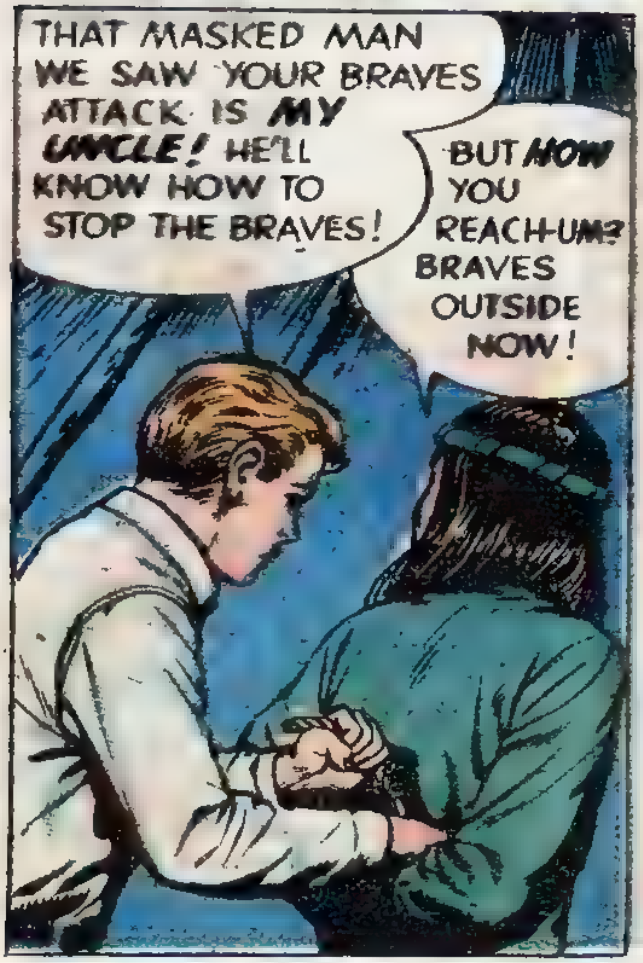
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF OTTER TAIL'S HORSE BY THE SLOPE AND SOON....

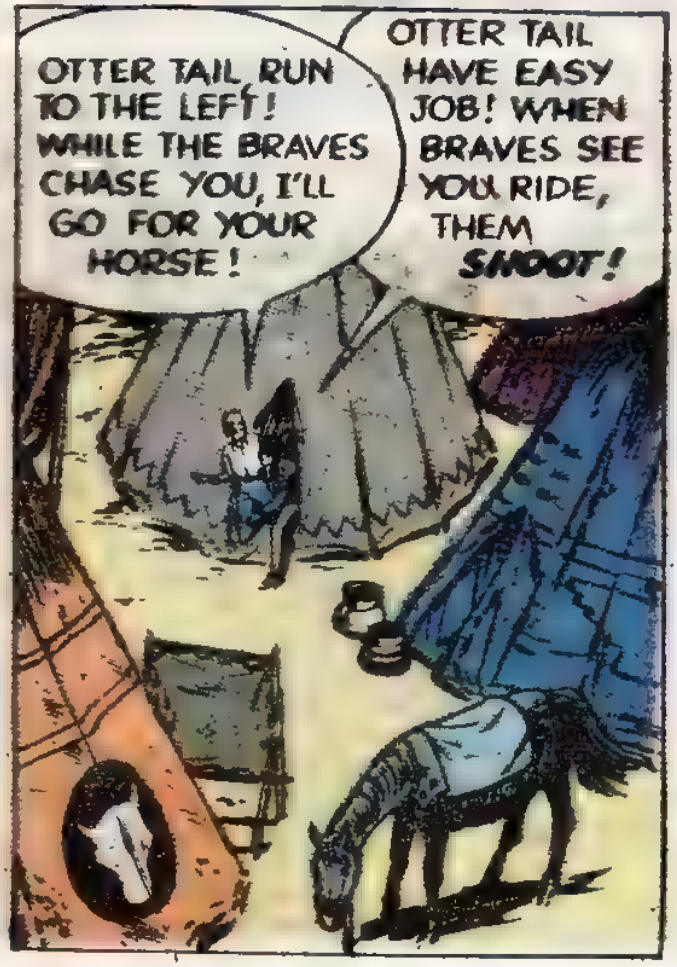
THEM WEAR WAR PAINT!
KEEP YOUR HAND AWAY FROM YOUR GUN, TONTO! I'M GOING TO TRY TO TALK TO THEM!
NOW! I WANT TO TALK IN PEACE---
THERE NOT BE PEACE BETWEEN US AND PALE-FACES!
FIND COVER, TONTO!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
ZING!

SWIFTLY, THE GREAT WHITE STALLION AND SCOUT CARRY THEM OFF...



MEANWHILE...

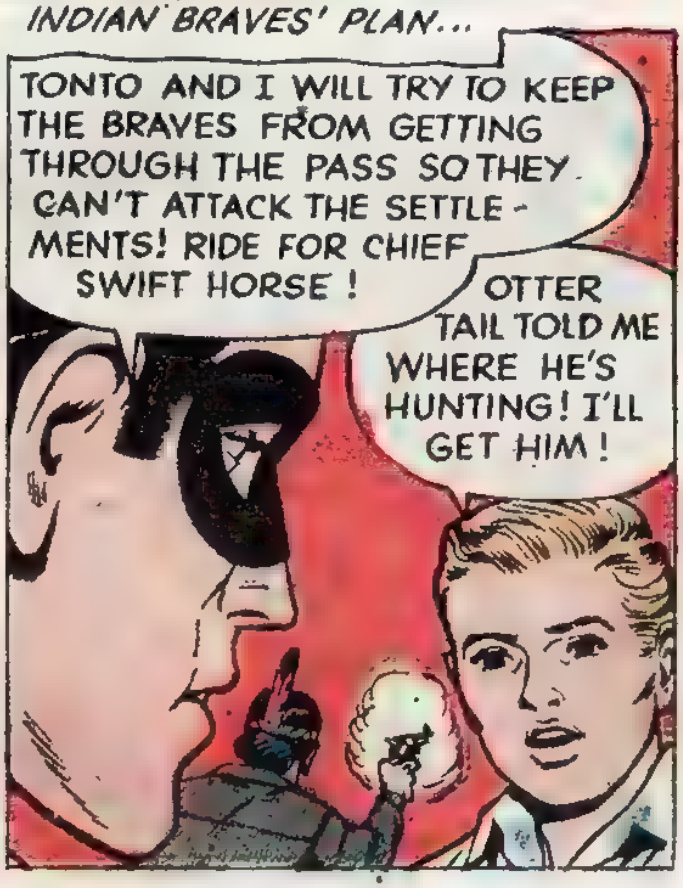

THAT MASKED MAN WE SAW YOUR BRAVES ATTACK IS MY UNCLE! HE'LL KNOW HOW TO STOP THE BRAVES!
BUT HOW YOU REACH-UM? BRAVES OUTSIDE NOW!


OTTER TAIL RUN TO THE LEFT! WHILE THE BRAVES CHASE YOU, I'LL GO FOR YOUR HORSE!
OTTER TAIL HAVE EASY JOB! WHEN BRAVES SEE YOU RIDE, THEM SHOOT!

OTTER TAIL IS ESCAPING!
GET HIM!
HE WILL NOT GET FAR!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
IF I CAN JUST GET RIDING BE- FORE THEY SEE ME---

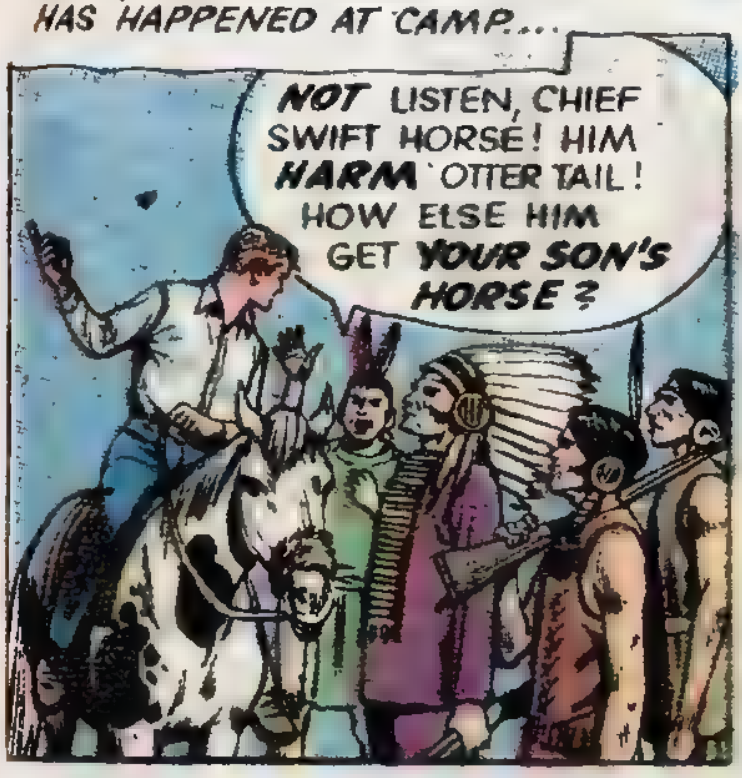
KEEPING JUST OUT OF GUN RANGE, DAN RACES ON....

QUICKLY, DAN REID TELLS OF THE INDIAN BRAVES' PLAN...


TONTO AND I WILL TRY TO KEEP THE BRAVES FROM GETTING THROUGH THE PASS SO THEY CAN'T ATTACK THE SETTLEMENTS! RIDE FOR CHIEF SWIFT HORSE!
OTTER TAIL TOLD ME WHERE HE'S HUNTING! I'LL GET HIM!

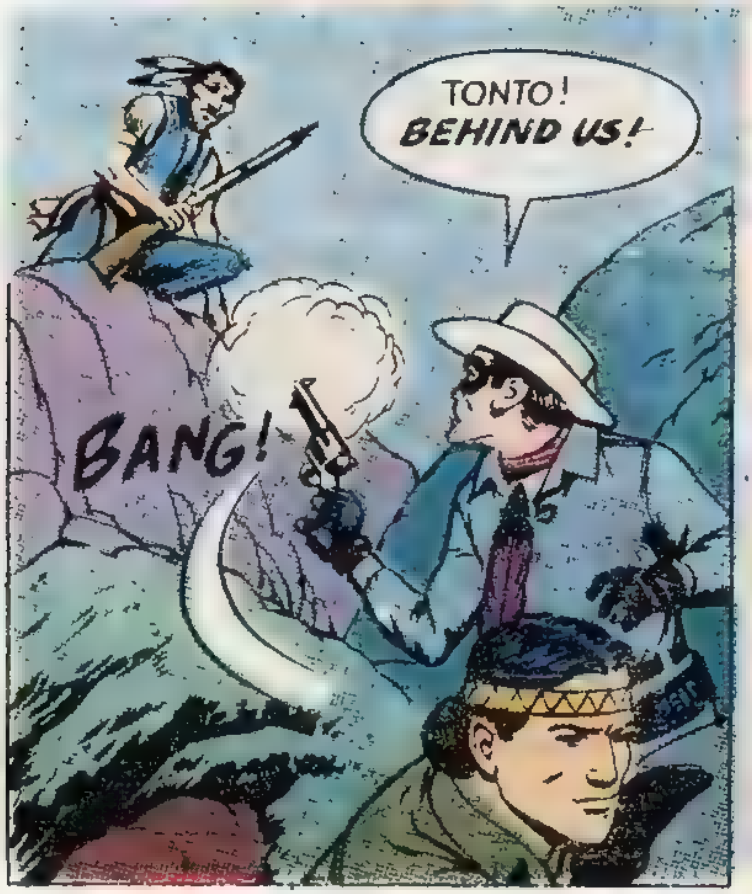
KEEP FIRING, TONTO! IF THEY GET BY US, THERE WILL BE WAR IN THIS TERRITORY!
BANG!
UGH!
BLAM!
HE-HELP---
BANG!
BLAM!
THIS TIME, TONTO— BUT THEY'RE SURE TO TRY AGAIN! OUR LUCK CAN'T LAST LONG AGAINST SUCH ODDS!
WE DRIVE-UM BACK!

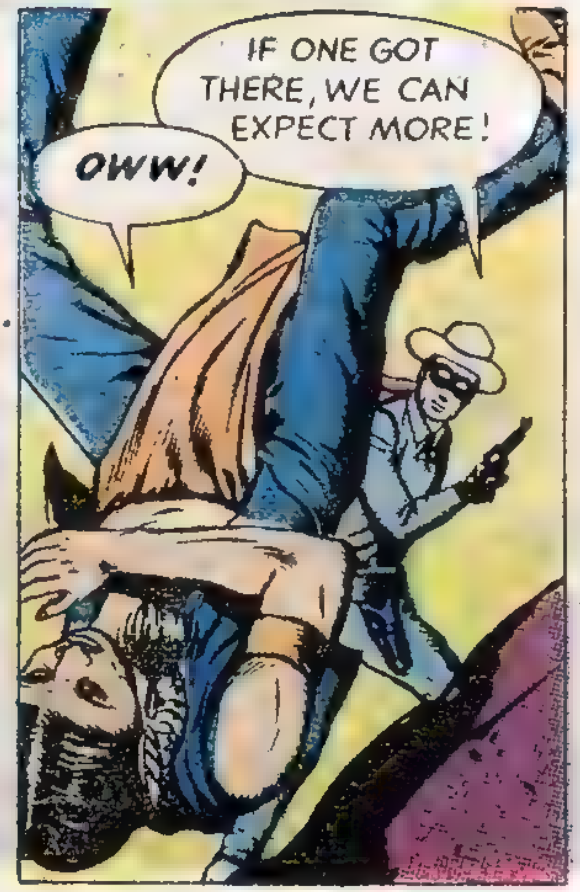
MEANWHILE, REACHING THE HUNTING PARTY, DAN REID QUICKLY TELLS WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT CAMP...



STOP! THIS CLOTH BELONG TO OTTER TAIL! WOULD OTTER TAIL BANDAGE THE ARM OF AN ENEMY? BOY SPEAK WITH STRAIGHT TONGUE! WE RIDE!

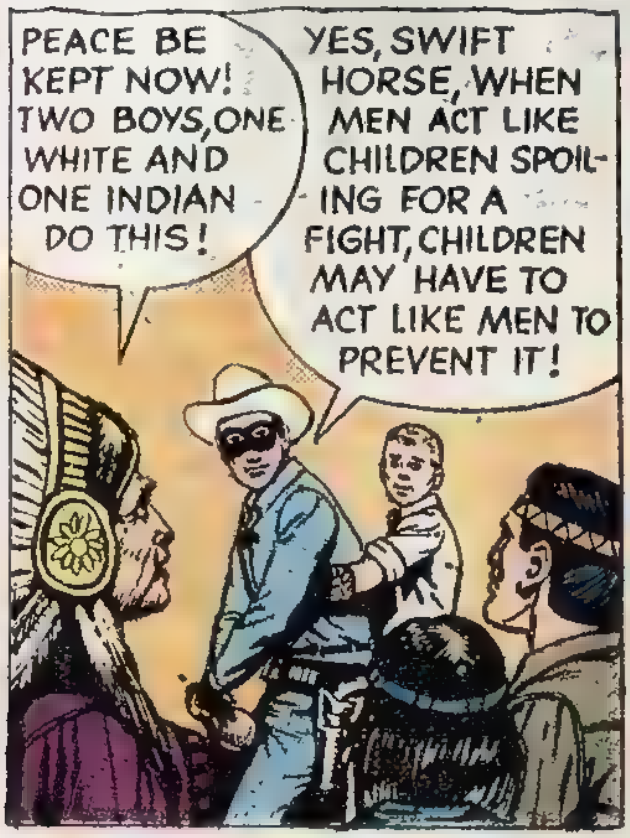
SOON...
YOU RIGHT, KEMO SABAY! THEM TRY TO GET THROUGH AGAIN!
BANG!


TONTO! BEHIND US!
BANG!


IF ONE GOT THERE, WE CAN EXPECT MORE!
OWW!

BUT BEFORE THE BRAVES CAN FORCE THE PASS, SUDDENLY....

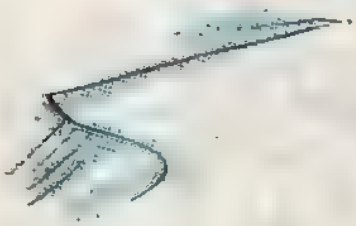
THEIR LEADER, YELLOW HAND, WOUNDED, THE WAR PAINTED BRAVES SURRENDER! SOON AFTER...


PEACE BE KEPT NOW! TWO BOYS, ONE WHITE AND ONE INDIAN DO THIS!
YES, SWIFT HORSE, WHEN MEN ACT LIKE CHILDREN SPOILING FOR A FIGHT, CHILDREN MAY HAVE TO ACT LIKE MEN TO PREVENT IT!

WHO IS THE MASKED MAN MY FRIEND CALLS HIS UNCLE?
HE IS A BRAVE MAN WHO ALWAYS FIGHTS FOR PEACE, OTTER TAIL! HE IS THE LONE RANGER!
HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

ways of the WILD HORSE

One of the most amazing things about the wild horse was his ability to live on wild grass alone, without the need of oats, wheat, corn and other cultivated foods to survive The Spanish Explorers who first brought the *mestano* or "mustang" to our Southwest territory never would have believed their stray horses would one day develop into a sturdy wild breed.



The horse could find food even in winter. Burning, late-summer, sun-dried grasses of the plains provided good hay, and the wild band of horses had only to paw away the snow to reach it. Gradually, the few horses the Spaniards lost multiplied until there were large herds ranging the Great Plains.

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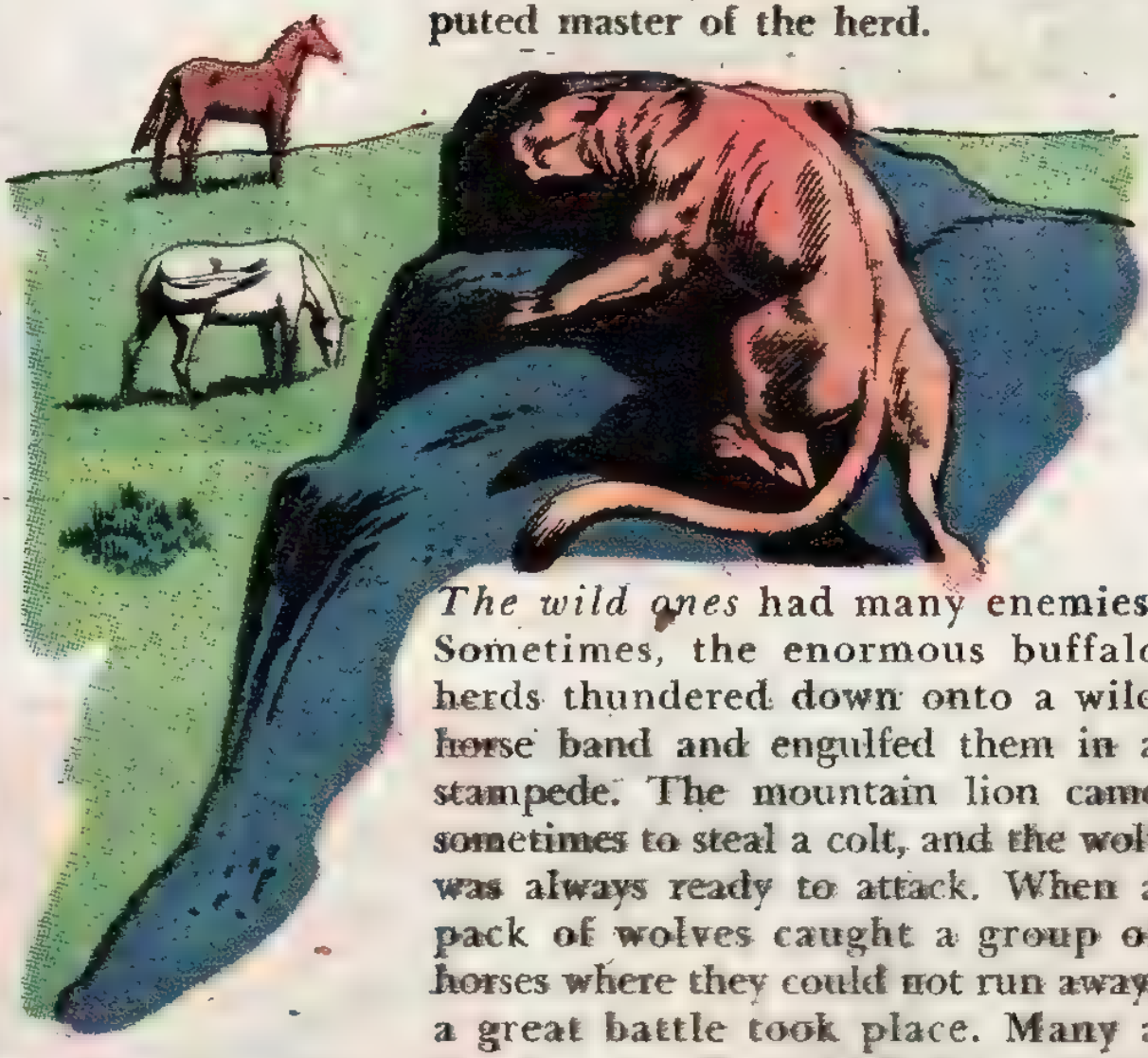
A great stallion became the leader of each band of mustangs. He watched over the mares and colts that made up his family, and guided them to good grass and shelter. But sometimes a strange stallion met the band and challenged the old leader. At such times a battle took place with all the band watching to see who would be victorious. Then, the losing stallion would run away, leaving the other the undisputed master of the herd.



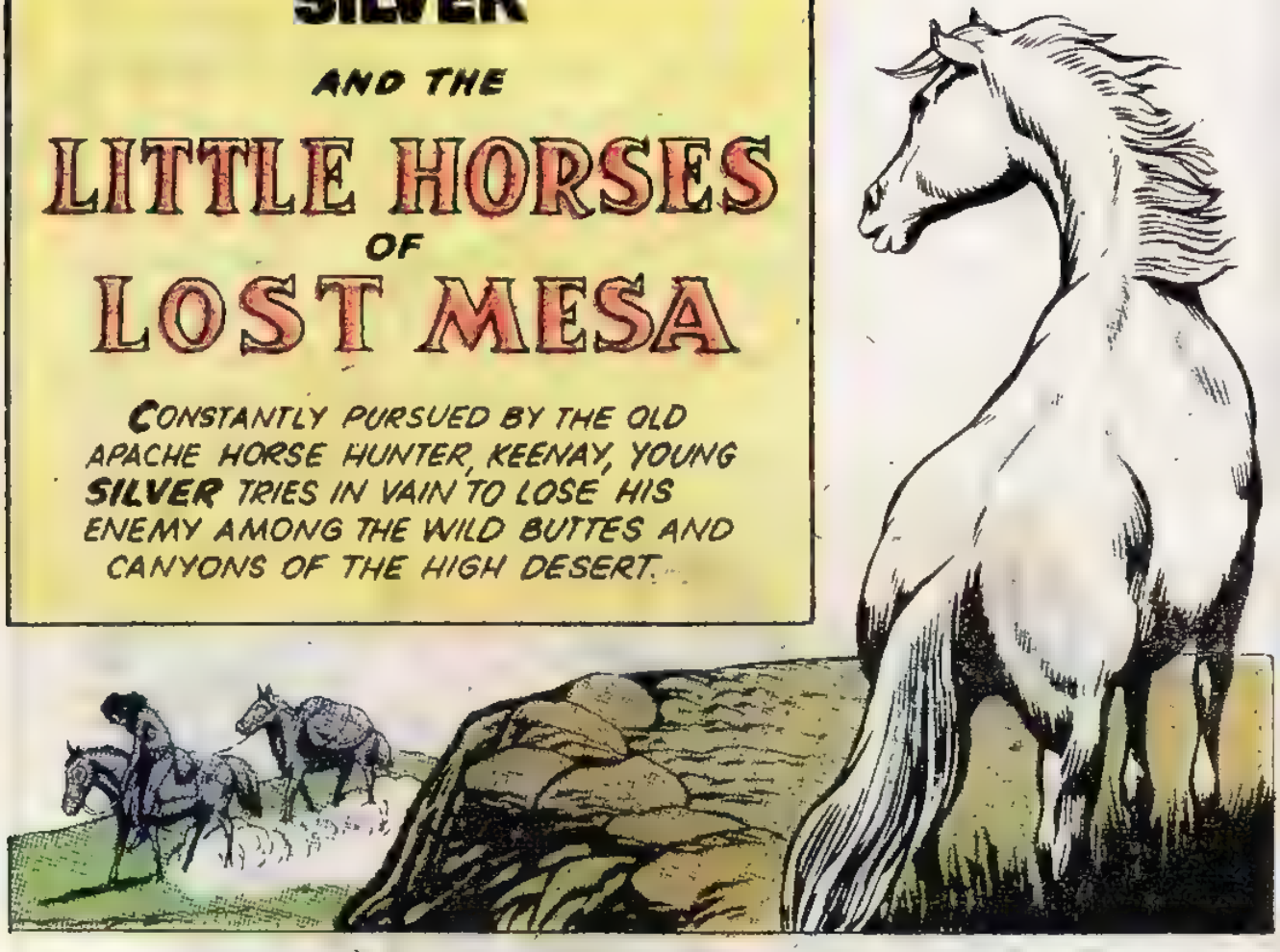
The wild ones had many enemies. Sometimes, the enormous buffalo herds thundered down onto a wild horse band and engulfed them in a stampede. The mountain lion came sometimes to steal a colt, and the wolf was always ready to attack. When a pack of wolves caught a group of horses where they could not run away, a great battle took place. Many a dangerous wolf was kicked into oblivion by the well-used heels of a mustang mother protecting her colt.

SILVER

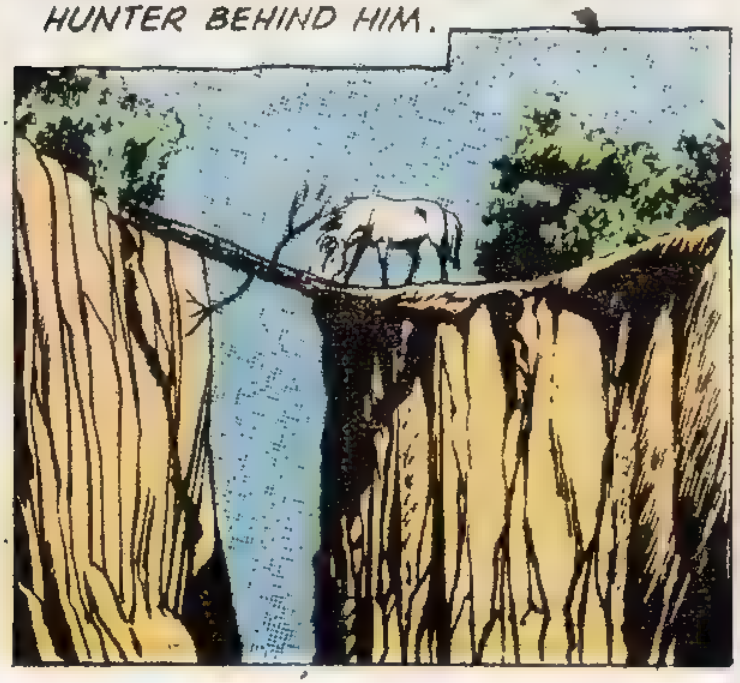
AND THE

LITTLE HORSES OF LOST MESA

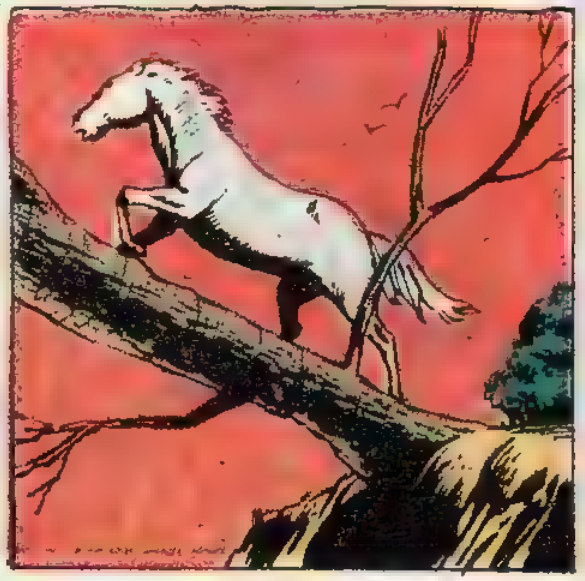
CONSTANTLY PURSUED BY THE OLD APACHE HORSE HUNTER, KEENAY, YOUNG **SILVER** TRIES IN VAIN TO LOSE HIS ENEMY AMONG THE WILD BUTTES AND CANYONS OF THE HIGH DESERT.



NO TRICK IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE SILVER STALLION TO ATTEMPT--IF IT WILL BREAK HIS TRAIL AND BAFFLE THE WILY HUNTER BEHIND HIM.



THE LIGHTNING-FELLED "BRIDGE" ACROSS THIS DEEP GORGE MIGHT BE THE ANSWER! FEW WILD HORSES WOULD DARE IT--AND FEW MEN--EVEN AFOOT!

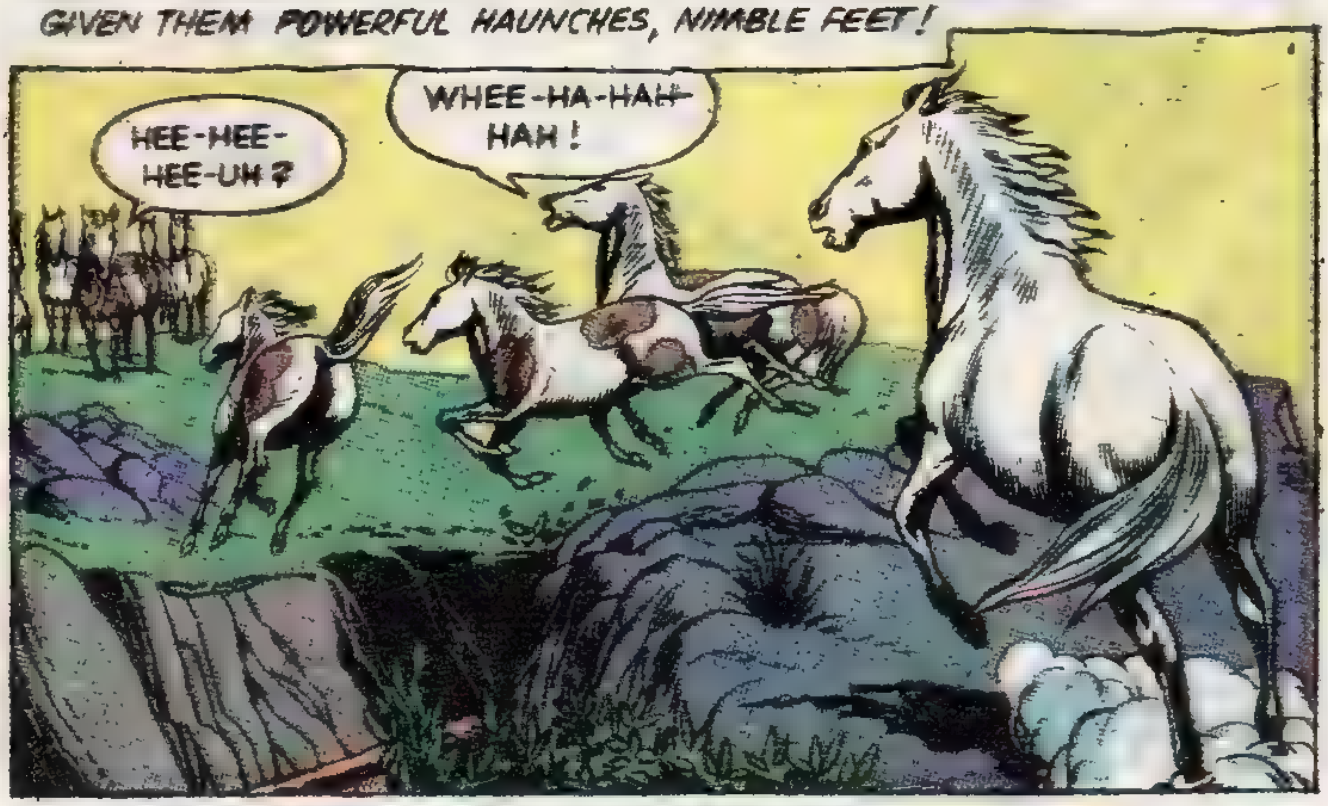


UNKNOWN TO SILVER AS YET, THE LOST MESA TO WHICH HE HAS CROSSED HAS SIDES SO STEEP THAT ONLY A MOUNTAIN SHEEP COULD CLIMB THEM NOW. LONG AGO THERE USED TO BE A TRAIL UP IT, USED BY WILD HORSES--BUT TIME AND WEATHER HAVE WIPED IT OUT! THERE ARE STILL WILD HORSES HERE BUT....

--THEY ARE ONLY HALF SILVER'S SIZE! MANY GENERATIONS OF TOO LITTLE GRASS, AND SOMETIMES TOO LITTLE WATER, HAVE BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO PONY SIZE! THEY ARE FRIENDLY LITTLE FELLOWS, QUITE UNAFRAID!

AND THEY QUICKLY WELCOME SILVER TO THEIR TINY MESA WORLD!

AS THEY RACE TO JOIN THE REST OF THEIR NUMBER, SILVER SEES THEM JUMP A WIDE GULLY LIKE DEER! THE ROUGH AND ROCKY MESA TOP HAS GIVEN THEM POWERFUL HAUNCHES, NIMBLE FEET!

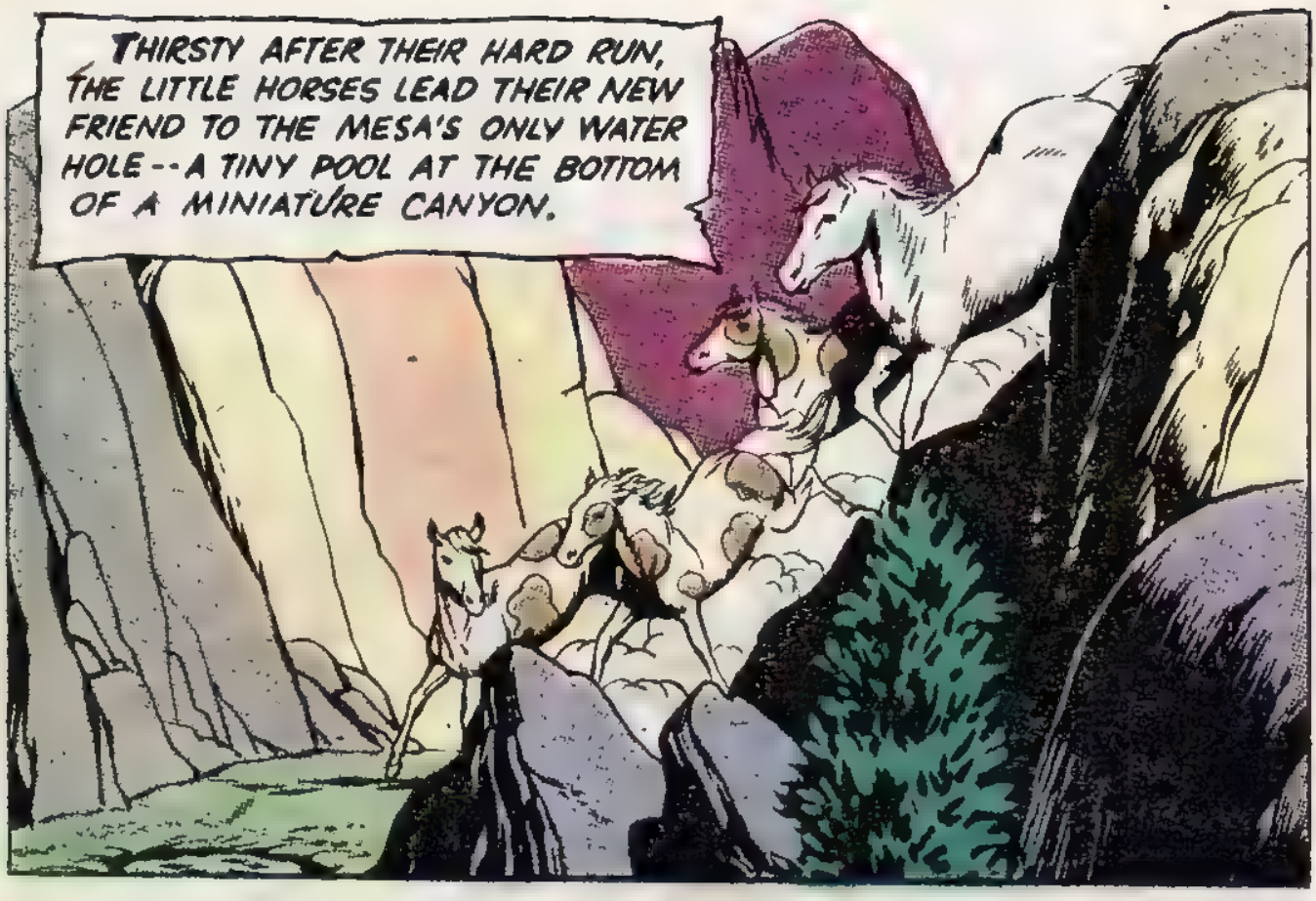


PLAYFULLY DARING, THEY LEAD HIM A WILD RUN CLOSE TO THE MESA'S RIM! SURE-FOOTED, THEY SEEM TO HAVE NO FEAR... NO ENEMIES!

BUT THERE IS ONE ENEMY, ALWAYS WATCHING TO TAKE THE WEAK AND UNPROTECTED--THE FIERCE GOLDEN EAGLE OF THE WESTERN SKIES, WHO HAS KILLED MANY A LITTLE FOAL AND EATEN HIM ON THE GROUND!

THE LITTLE MARE FOLLOWING SILVER HEARS THE AIR WHISTLING WITH THE EAGLE'S POWER DIVE--AND SILVER HEARS HER SCREAM BLEND WITH IT!

HIS LIGHTNING RESPONSE-AND THE CLICK OF HIS MIGHTY JAWS-TAKE THE FEATHERED KILLER BY SURPRISE, AND ROUT HIM!

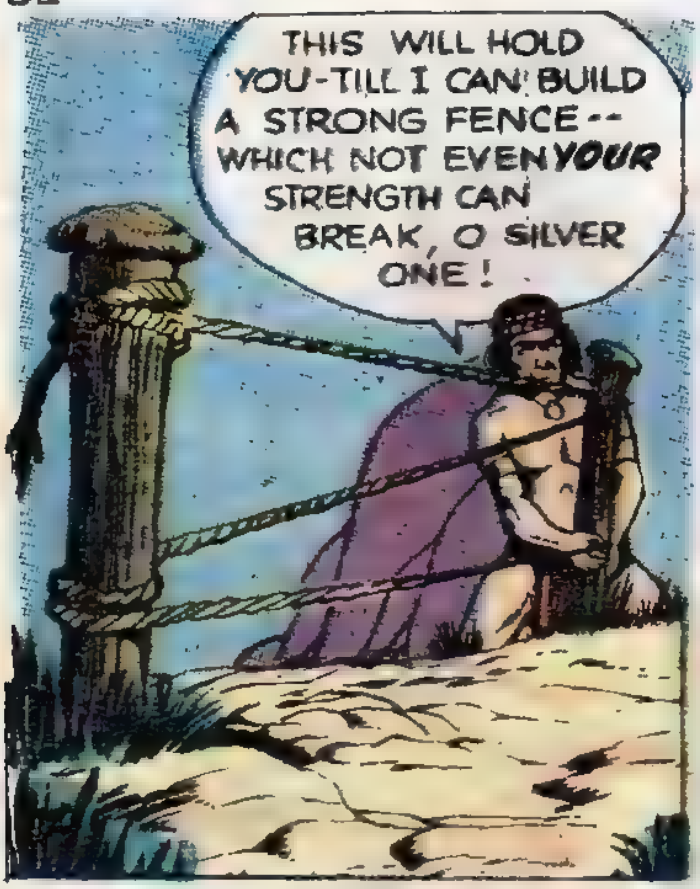

THIRSTY AFTER THEIR HARD RUN, THE LITTLE HORSES LEAD THEIR NEW FRIEND TO THE MESA'S ONLY WATER HOLE--A TINY POOL AT THE BOTTOM OF A MINIATURE CANYON.

THERE IS ONLY A LITTLE WATER--AND SOMETIMES THEY DRINK THE TINY SPRING QUITE DRY---BUT THEY ARE GLAD TO SHARE IT!

MEANTIME, OLD KEENAY HAS UNRAVELED SILVER'S TRAIL, AND FOUND THE "BRIDGE!"

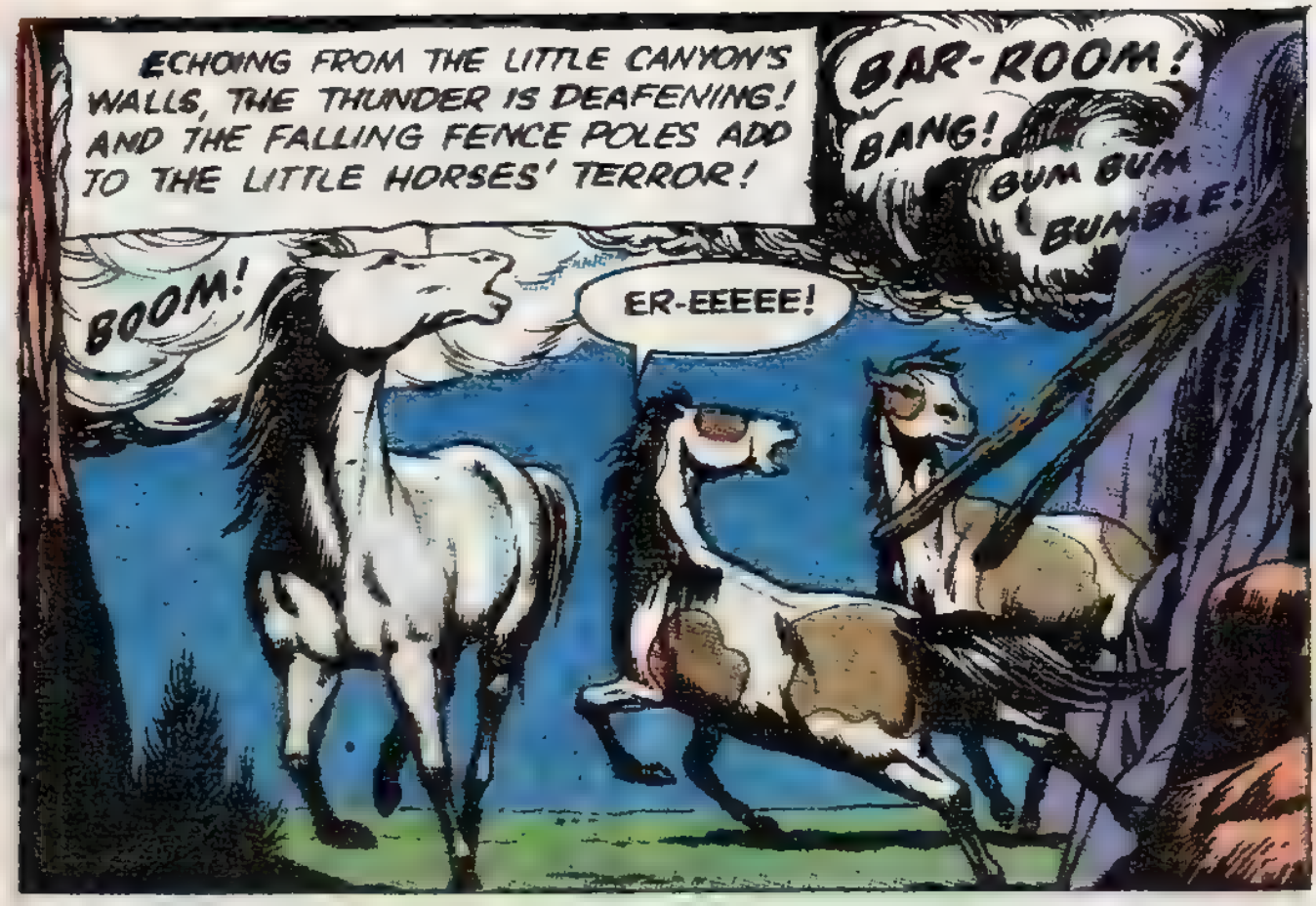
LEAVING HIS HORSES ON THE OTHER SIDE, KEENAY TAKES A ROPE AND A HAND-AXE, AND CROSSES THE DANGEROUS BRIDGE.

AT LAST HE FINDS THE LITTLE CANYON - A NATURAL TRAP - AND SILVER ALREADY INSIDE IT!

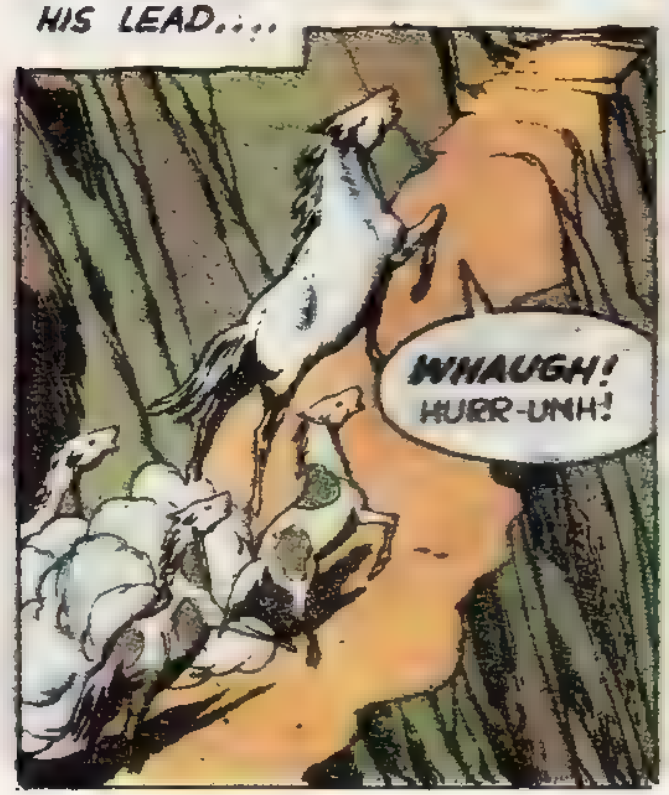


I WILL KEEP YOU IN THAT LITTLE CANYON UNTIL YOU ARE WEAK FROM WANT OF FOOD! THEN I SHALL CAPTURE YOU AND BEND YOU TO MY WISHES! HO, HO!

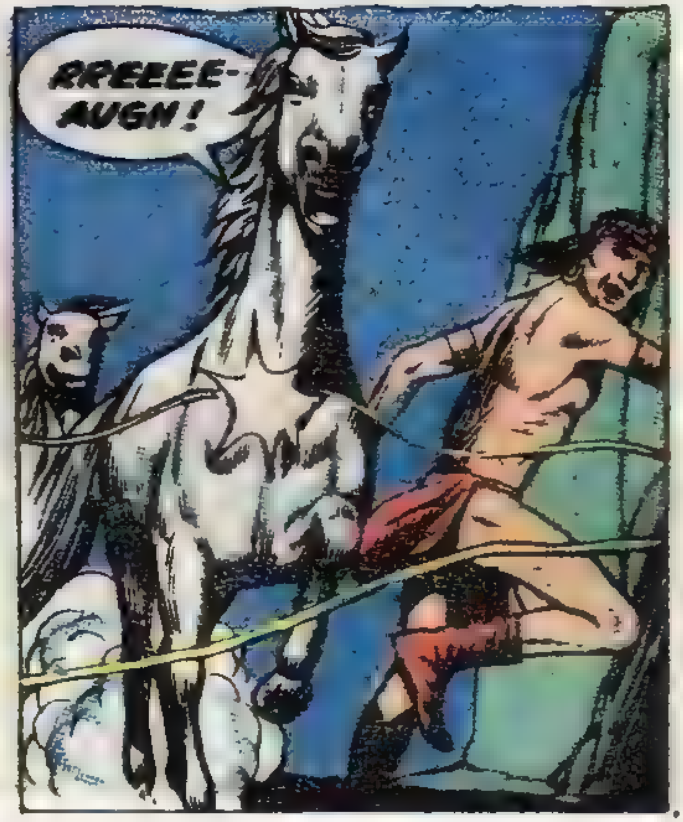
AN INSTANT LATER, A LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES CLOSE TO KEENAY!


ECHOING FROM THE LITTLE CANYON'S WALLS, THE THUNDER IS DEAFENING! AND THE FALLING FENCE POLES ADD TO THE LITTLE HORSES' TERROR!
BAR-ROOM!
BANG!
BUM BUM BUMBLE!
BOOM!
ER-EEEEE!

ONLY SILVER REALIZES THAT THE CANYON IS A TRAP--AND THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BREAK OUT OF IT! BUT THE LITTLE HORSES FOLLOW HIS LEAD....

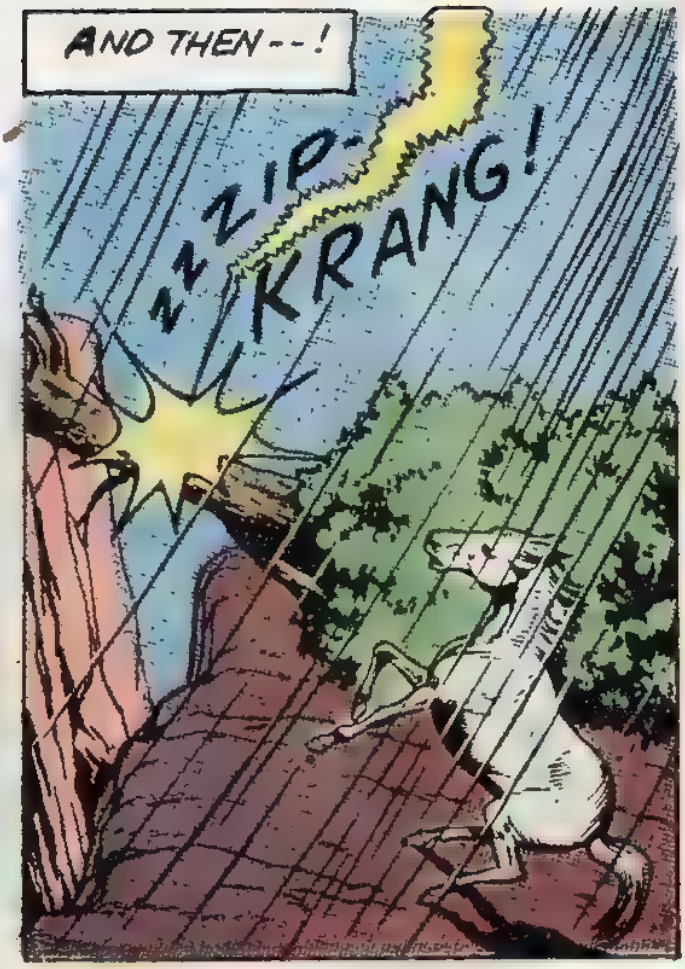


---AND OLD KEENAY JUMPS TO AVOID THE CHARGE WHICH TRAMPLES HIS MAKESHIFT BARRIER.



NOW, WITH KEENAY BEHIND HIM, SILVER KNOWS BUT ONE WAY TO FREEDOM--ACROSS THE FALLEN-TREE BRIDGE!

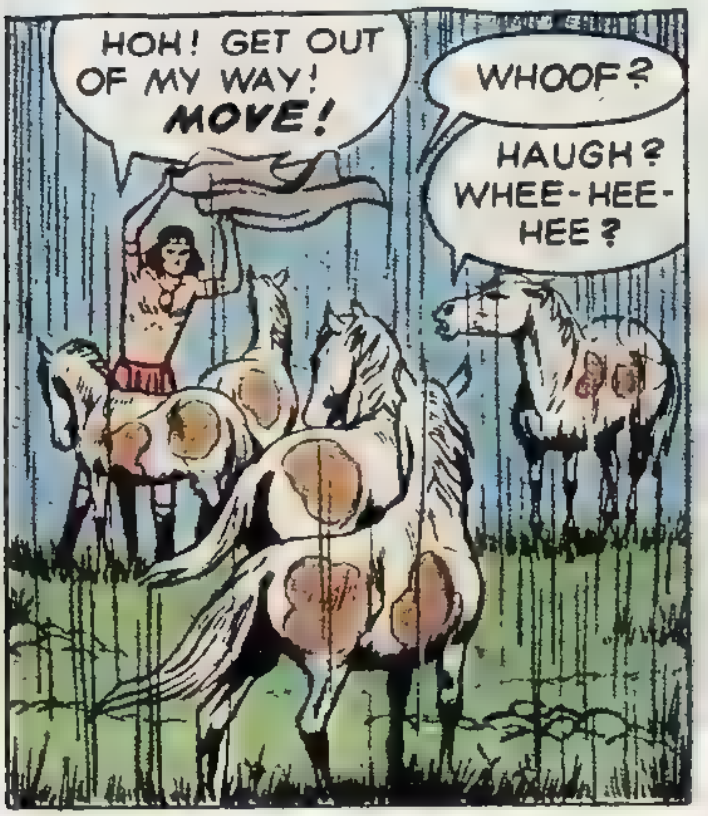
AND THEN--!



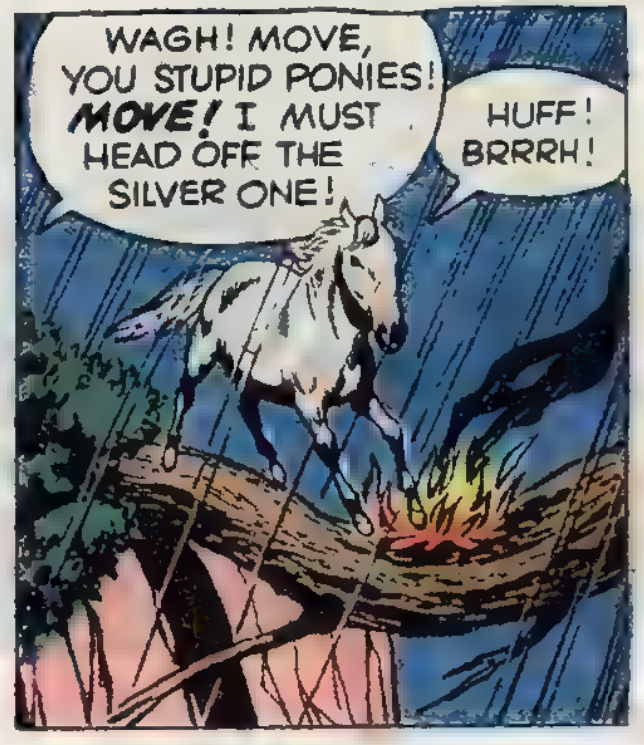
LITTLE FLAMES BEGIN TO LICK THROUGH THE LIGHTNING SHATTERED TRUNK!

THE SPLINTERED WOOD SEEMS BARELY ABLE TO SUPPORT ITS OWN WEIGHT NOW--BUT IT IS STILL THE ONLY WAY ACROSS! GINGERLY SILVER TESTS IT....

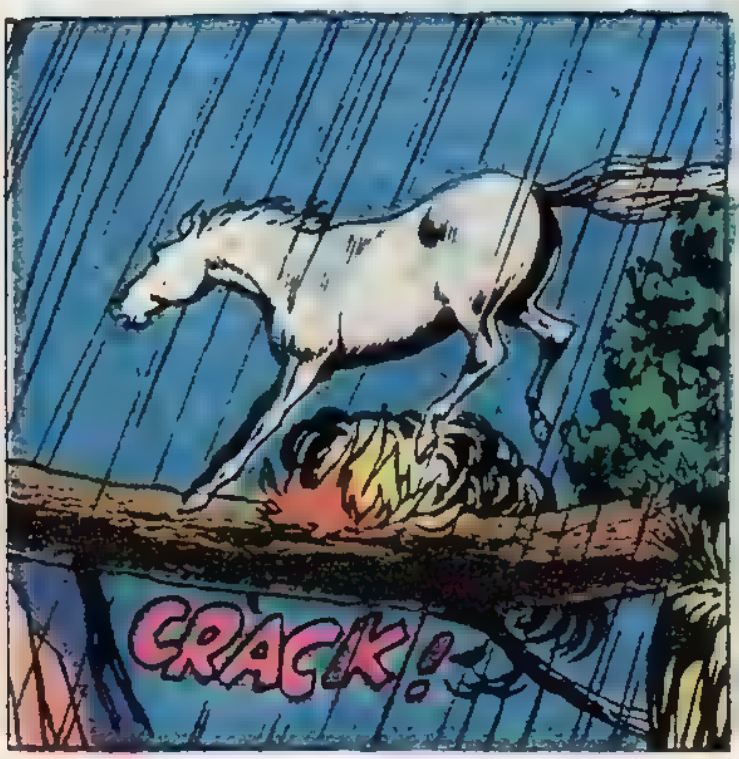
UNUSED TO ENEMIES - EXCEPT FOR THE EAGLES - THE LITTLE HORSES MISUNDERSTAND KEENAY'S ANTICS.



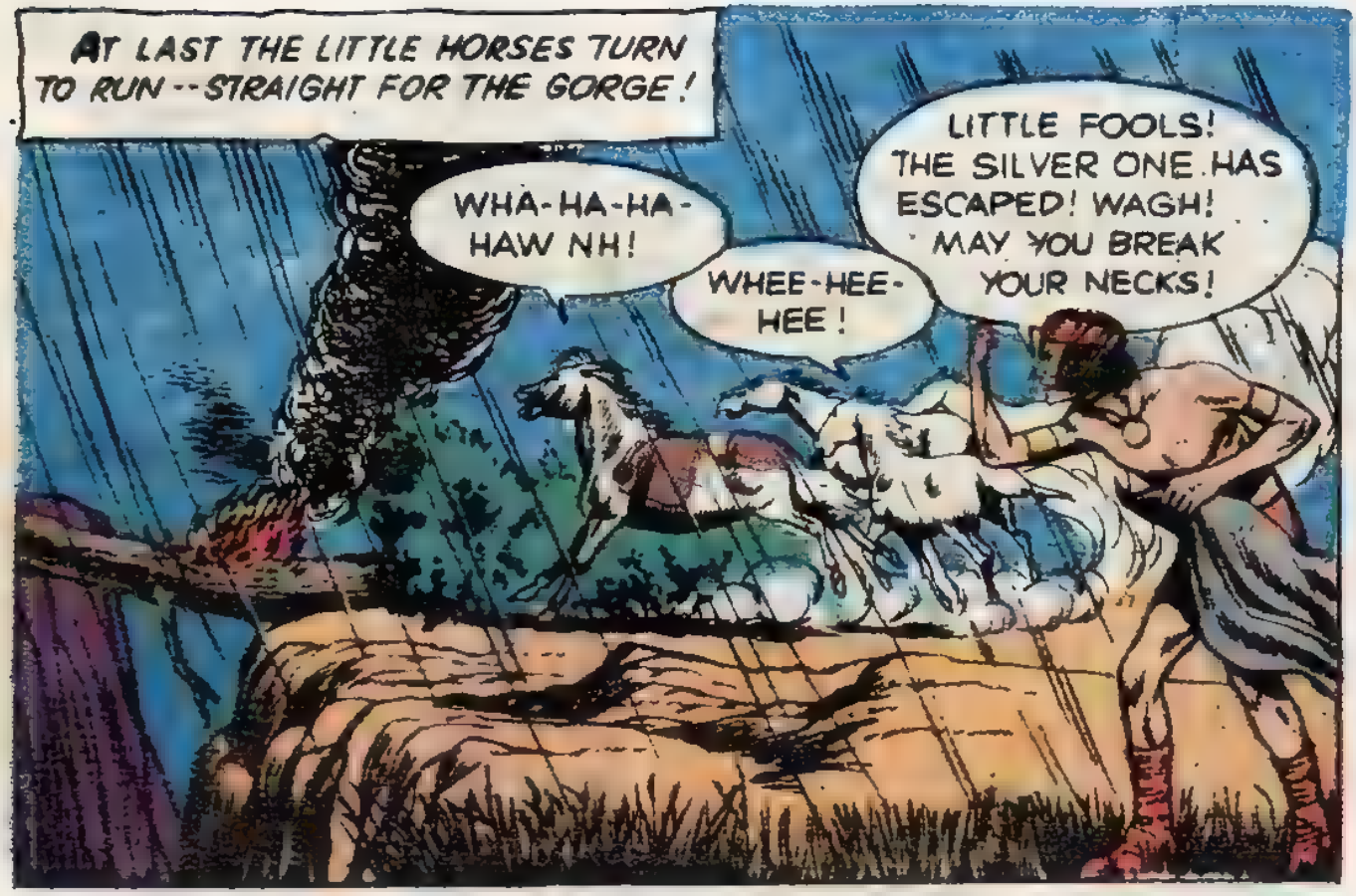
KEENAY'S SHOUTING CONVINCES SILVER TO RISK IT! THE WEAKENED LOG SWAYS ABOVE THE BLACK GULF--AND THE FLAMES WHICH EAT AT IT SPUTTER IN THE RAIN.



HE LEAPS THE BLAZE - KNOWING THAT IF A HOOF SHOULD SLIP ON THE WET LOG, DEATH AWAITS HIM!



BUT DEATH IS DISAPPOINTED --ONCE AGAIN! THE FIRM, SURE HOOFS REACH SAFETY!


AT LAST THE LITTLE HORSES TURN TO RUN--STRAIGHT FOR THE GORGE!
WHA-HA-HA-HAW NH!
WHEE-HEE-HEE!
LITTLE FOOLS! THE SILVER ONE HAS ESCAPED! WAGH! MAY YOU BREAK YOUR NECKS!

--AND, SEEING SILVER ON THE OTHER SIDE, THEIR LEADER STARTS ACROSS, TOO!

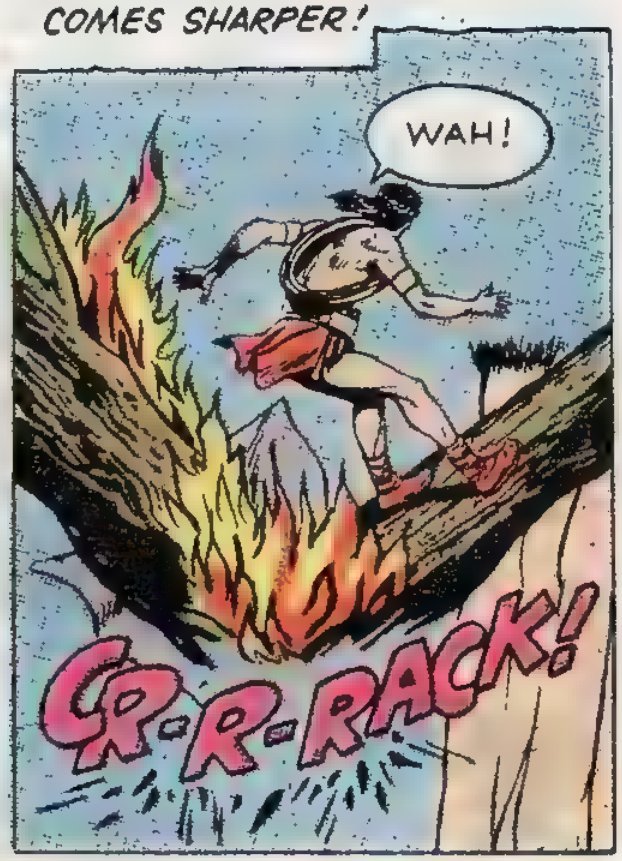
THE LOG SWAYS AND CRACKS AGAIN, BUT THEIR WEIGHT IS DISTRIBUTED! THE LITTLE HOOFS ARE SURE! EVEN FIRE HOLDS NO TERROR FOR THEM!

AS THE LAST OF THE PINTOS REACHES SAFETY A HARD GUST OF WIND FANS THE FLAMES IN THE SHATTERED TRUNK.

SWIFTLY MAKING UP HIS MIND THE OLD APACHE FACES THE ODDS!

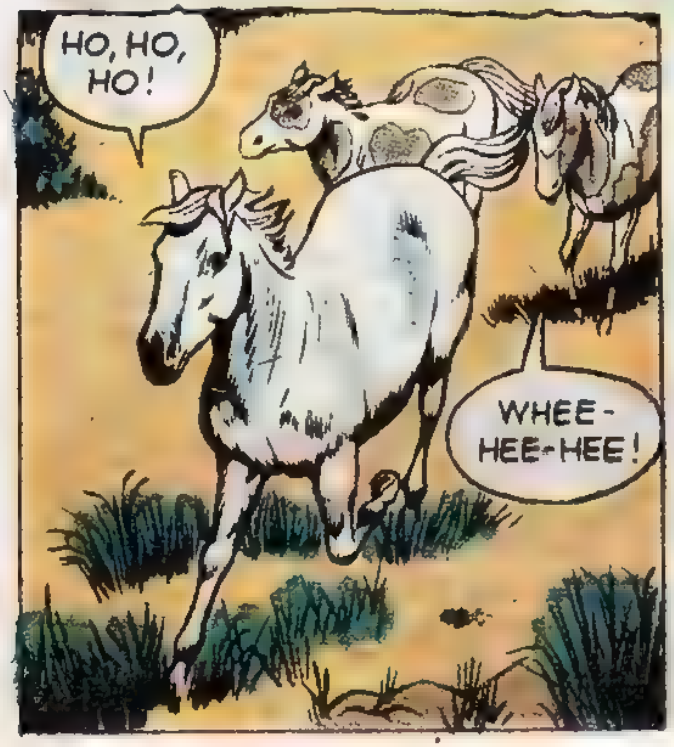
BLANKETING THE FLAMES, KEENAY KNOWS THAT TIME HAS RUN OUT!

AS HE LEAPS, MORE WEAKENED FIBERS SNAP--THE BEND BECOMES SHARPER!



O-HAI, SILVER ONE! YOU HAVE BEATEN ME FOR THE LAST TIME! NO MORE WILL OLD KEENAY HAUNT YOUR TRAIL! LIVE, AND BE FREE FOREVER!
WHEEEE HAW HAW HAWNH!

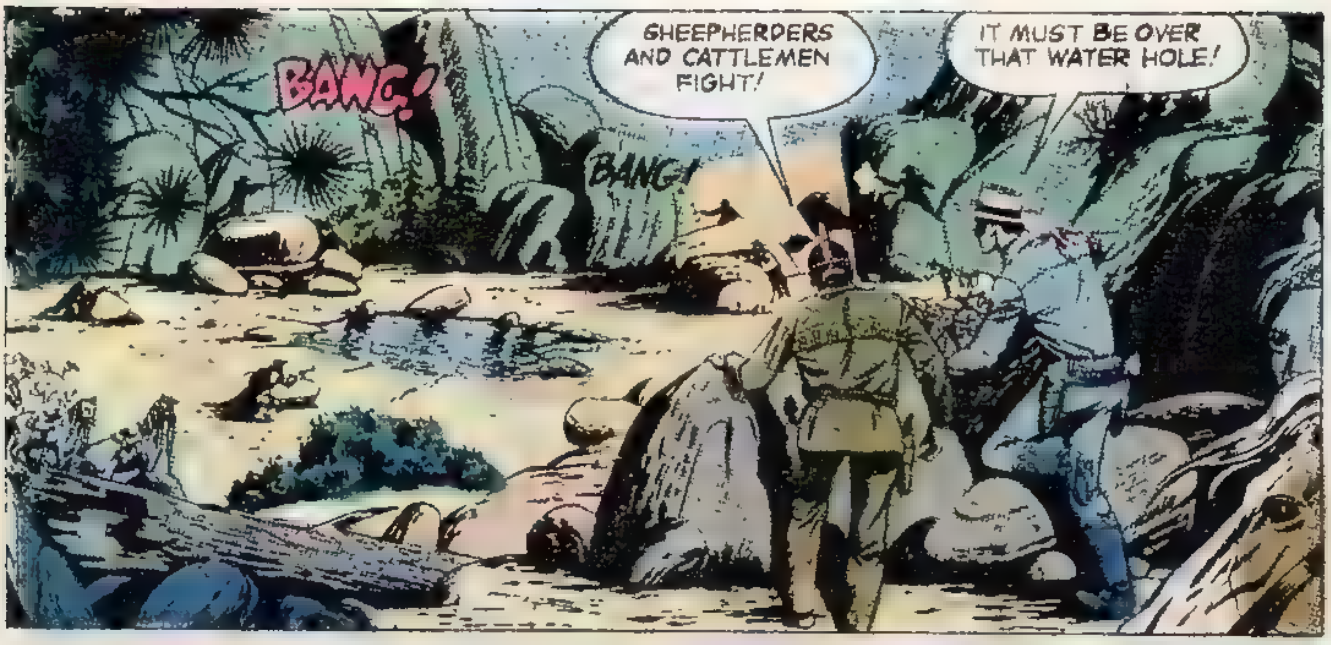
SILVER TOO, SENSES THAT HE WILL SEE HIS OLD ENEMY NO MORE- THAT HE CAN RETURN TO HIS WILD HORSE BAND WITHOUT BRINGING DANGER TO THEM ALONG HIS TRAIL...

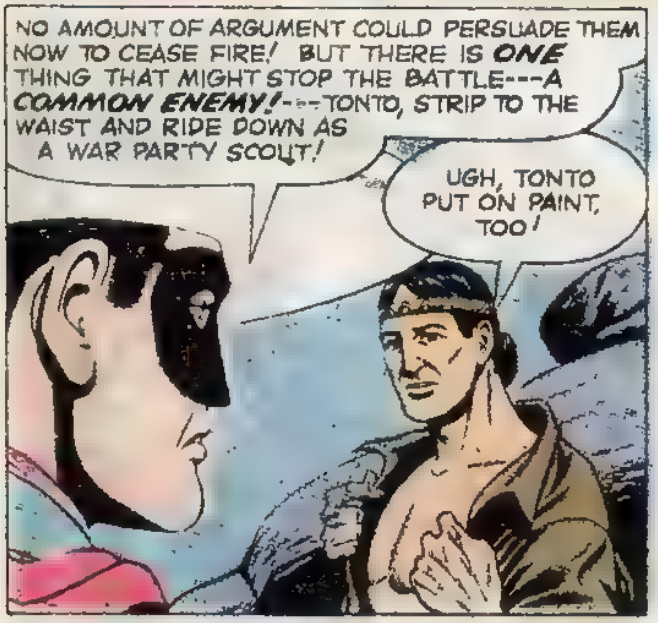


AND THE **LITTLE HORSES OF LOST MESA** ARE FREE TOO- FREE AT LAST TO FIND ENOUGH FOOD AND WATER, AND TO BREED BACK TO TRUE WILD HORSE SIZE IN THE WIDE-OPEN SPACES.

the Lone Ranger
THE GREAT RANGE WAR
HANK, HAVE THESE STEERS GONE LOCO? THEY SHOULD HAVE A POWERFUL THIRST, BUT THEY'RE NOT DRINKING!
WHAT'S WRONG? AFTER THAT LONG, HOT MARCH THIS MORNING, THEY SHOULD BE DYING FOR A DRINK!
LOOK AT THESE TRACKS! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG--- SHEEP!
BUT WHAT IF THE SHEEP DID DRINK HERE FIRST?
THOSE CRITTERS HAVE SMALL SHARP HOOVES! WHEN THEY DRINK, THEY BUNCH UP AND WADE INTO THE WATER! THEIR HOOVES STIR UP ANY IRRITATING MINERALS LIKE ALKALI FROM THE BOTTOM!
BUT, HANK, NO STEER'D DRINK ALKALI WATER!
THEY NEVER TASTE THE ALKALI LONG AS IT STAYS ON THE BOTTOM! BUT WHEN SHEEP DRINK, THEY STIR IT UP AND POLLUTE THE WATER FOR DAYS!
MOVE THE HERD OFF! THEY'LL NOT DRINK WHERE SHEEP DRINK FIRST, AND IF THE SHEEPHERDERS BEAT US TO THE NEXT WATER HOLE, OUR HERD'LL BE BUZZARD BAIT!

GET ALONG, DOGIES! MOVE OFF OR YOU'LL BE DYIN' OF THIRST OUT HERE!
GIA!
IS THE NEXT HOLE AT BATES VALLEY?
RIGHT! BUT THE SHEEPERS GOT THE JUMP ON US! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS CUTTING CROSS-COUNTRY AN' USIN' A SIDE ENTRANCE TO THE VALLEY!
BUT LATER, AT BATE'S VALLEY----
HANK!
BOYS, NO ONE PAYS FOR CATTLE BONES! WE'VE GOT TO USE THAT WATER FIRST! DRAW YOUR SHOOTIN' IRONS!
COWPUNCHERS!
THEY'RE THROWIN' LEAD! GUN 'EM DOWN!
PING!
ZING!
NEARBY---
PLENTY GUNFIRE, KEMO SABAY!
IT'S COMING FROM THE VALLEY BELOW, TONTO!---LET'S GO, SILVER!
BANG!
BLAM!


BANG!
BANG!
SHEEPHERDERS AND CATTLEMEN FIGHT!
IT MUST BE OVER THAT WATER HOLE!


NO AMOUNT OF ARGUMENT COULD PERSUADE THEM NOW TO CEASE FIRE! BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT MIGHT STOP THE BATTLE---A COMMON ENEMY!---TONTO, STRIP TO THE WAIST AND RIDE DOWN AS A WAR PARTY SCOUT!
UGH, TONTO PUT ON PAINT, TOO!

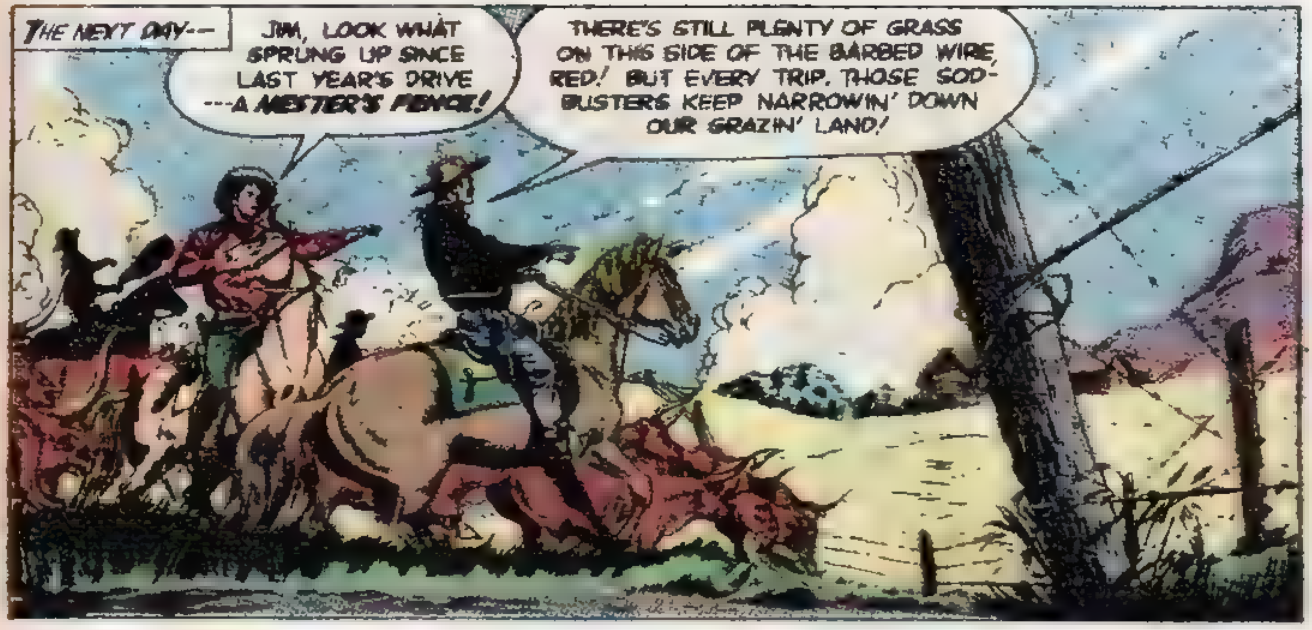
A MINUTE LATER---
WE'VE GOT TO DRIVE THOSE SHEEPERS OUT FROM COVER! GET READY TO RUSH 'EM, BOYS!
BANG!
BLAM!

HANK!
AN INDIAN--- AND HE'S IN WAR PAINT!

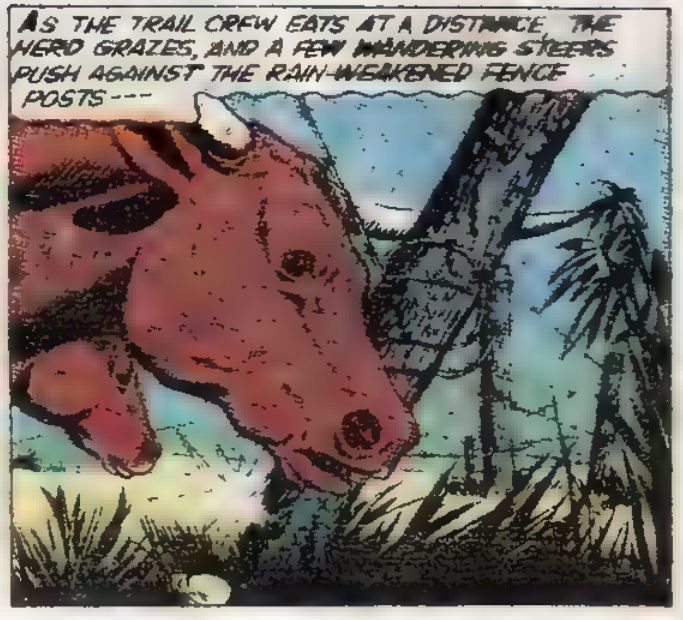
AND LOOK UP YONDER!
SMOKE!---THERE MUST BE A WHOLE WAR PARTY OF 'EM UP THERE SETTIN' THE STAGE FOR A SCALP DANCE THAT'LL FEATURE OUR TOPKNOTS!

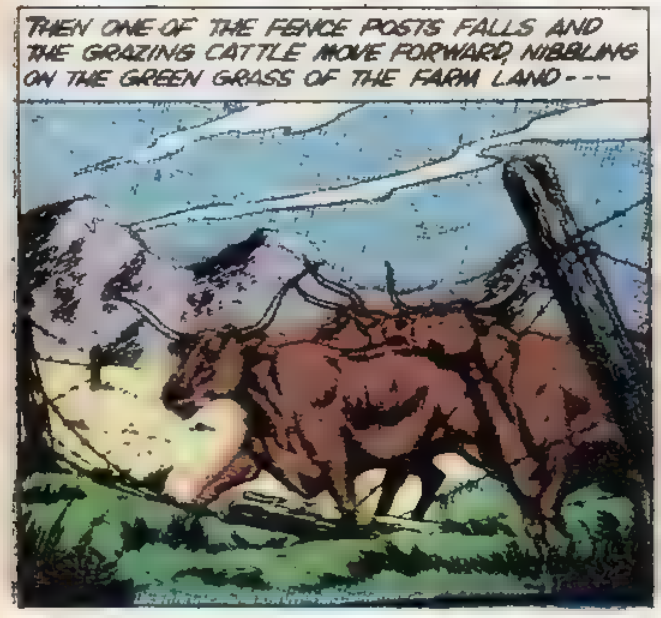
THEY SHOULD HAVE SEEN TONTO AND THE SMOKE! NOW TO HOPE THEY'LL STOP FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO FACE A COMMON ENEMY!
COME ON, SILVER!
WE'LL PUT UP OUR GUNS IF YOU WILL!
AGREED! RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT SOME REDSKINS TO TANGLE WITH!
HANK, WHO'S THAT HOMBRE? HE'S MASKED!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE OR WHY YOU'RE MASKED, MISTER! WE CAN USE YOUR TWO SIX-GUNS!
GET DOWN PRONTO! INDIANS!
I SAW SMOKE---
YOU'LL BE SEEIN' REDSKINS, TOO! WATCH THE RIDGES, MEN!
SO FAR, MY PLAN'S WORKING! BUT CAN I MAKE THIS ARMED TRUCE LAST?

THERE'S ONE OF 'EM! I'LL DROP HIM PRONTO!
STOP!---HE'S TONTO, MY COMPANION! WE AGREED TO MEET HERE EARLIER!--- TONTO, DID YOU SEE ANY INDIANS?
NO, KEMO SABAY! ME NOT SEE-UM!
FOR HALF AN HOUR, THE SHEEPHERDERS AND CATTLEMEN KEEP WATCH---
IF THERE WERE ANY BRAVES, THEY MUST HAVE RIDDEN OFF WHEN THEY SAW YOU SET UP YOUR DEFENSES! BOTH HERDS WERE HEADING FOR THE WATER HOLE, BUT THE CATTLE SEEM MORE IN NEED OF A DRINK! I'M CERTAIN MEN WHO STOOD READY TO FIGHT TOGETHER, WILL NOT FIGHT EACH OTHER!
WELL--- I RECKON THE CATTLE DO NEED THE WATER MORE'N OUR SHEEP! WE'LL JUST GRAZE OUR FLOCK HERE!
NO! IF THEY DO THERE'LL NOT BE A BLADE OF GRASS LEFT! YOUR SHEEP EAT IN A SOLID PACK AND WITH THEIR FINER TEETH, THEY CROP THE GRASS PLUMB DOWN TO THE GROUND!
IT IS TRUE. AFTER SHEEP GRAZE, CATTLE CAN'T FIND ANY GRASS! TWO MILES NORTH, THERE'S ANOTHER VALLEY AND WATER HOLE, WHY NOT TAKE THE SHEEP THERE AND THEN PLAN TO USE SEPARATE ROUTES THE REST OF THE WAY TO MARKET SO THERE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE OVER WATER AND GRASS?
OKAY!
YOU GET-UM PART PEACEFULLY!
BUT THIS IS ONLY ONE GROUP OF CATTLEMEN AND SHEEPHERDERS, TONTO! EVERY DAY NOW, MORE WILL COME UP THE TRAIL AND HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN THIS PEACE?


THE NEXT DAY--
JIM, LOOK WHAT SPRUNG UP SINCE LAST YEAR'S DRIVE ---A MESTER'S FENCE!
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF GRASS ON THIS SIDE OF THE BARBED WIRE, RED! BUT EVERY TRIP, THOSE SOD-BUSTERS KEEP NARROWIN' DOWN OUR GRAZIN' LAND!

WE'LL CAMP BACK IN THE HILLS AND LET THE CATTLE GRAZE HERE! SET UP THE CHUCK WAGON!


AS THE TRAIL CREW EATS AT A DISTANCE, THE HERD GRAZES, AND A FEW WANDERING STEERS PUSH AGAINST THE RAIN-WEAKENED FENCE POSTS ---


THEN ONE OF THE FENCE POSTS FALLS AND THE GRAZING CATTLE MOVE FORWARD, NIBBLING ON THE GREEN GRASS OF THE FARM LAND ---

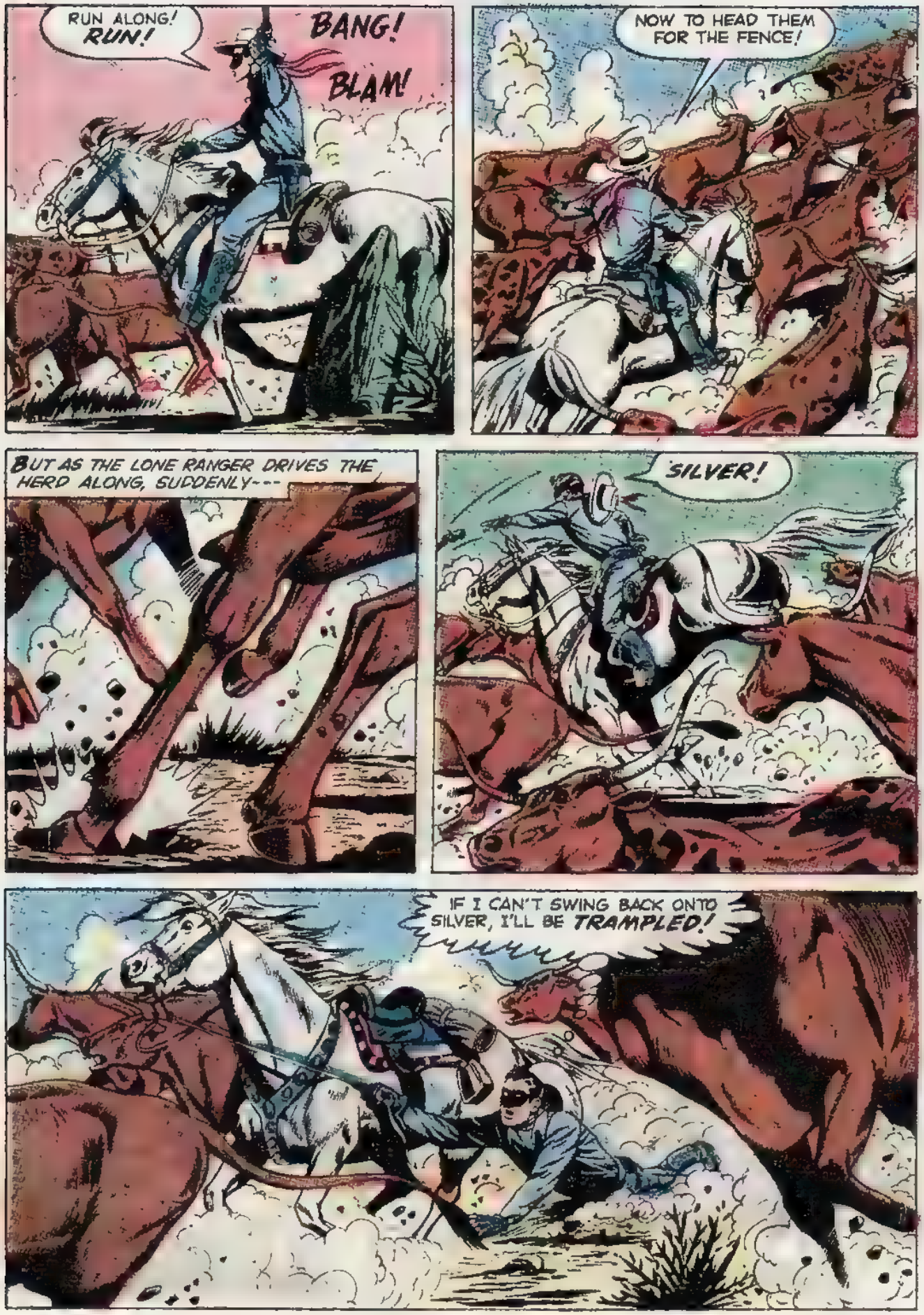
STEERS!--- THE BLASTED COWPUNCHERS MUST'VE KNOCKED OVER MY FENCE DELIBERATELY! THOSE CRITTERS MAY BE FATTENING UP ON MY CROPS, BUT TONIGHT, I'M GOING TO HAVE A STEAK DINNER!

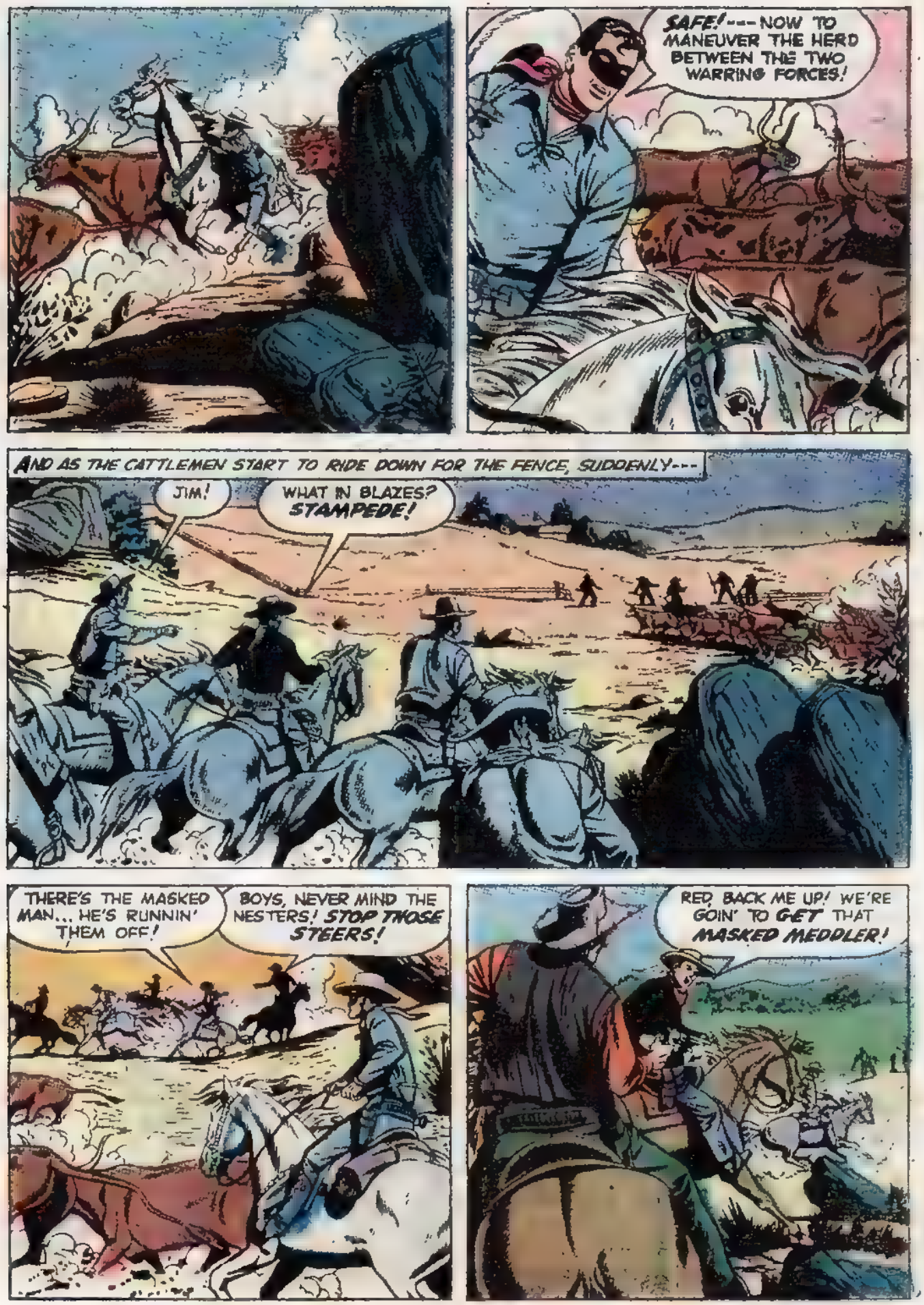
LOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT SHOTGUN?
PEPPERING SOME STEERS' HIDES WITH LEAD BEFORE THEY TRAMPLE AND RUIN MY PLANTED FIELDS!
KEMO SABAY, CATTLE CROSS BROKEN FENCE!
AND THERE'S THE FARMER ON WHOSE LAND THE STEERS ARE GRAZING. IF HE SHOOTS THAT BULL, IT'LL ONLY BE THE FIRST SHOT OF A BITTER WAR BETWEEN CATTLEMEN AND HOMESTEADERS!--- COME ON, SILVER!
BANG!
MY GUN!
IF YOU HAD KILLED THAT STEER, YOU'D HAVE BEGUN A RANGE WAR!
Y-YOU'RE MASKED!--- WELL, NO MASKED LEADSLINGER, WORKING FOR THE CATTLEMEN, IS SCARING ME OFF MY LAND! THE HOMESTEAD ACT SAYS ANY CITIZEN OVER TWENTY-ONE CAN CLAIM A HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND AND IF HE WORKS IT FOR FIVE YEARS, IT'S HIS! I'M STAYING!

NO ONE IS TRYING TO DISPUTE YOUR HARD-EARNED RIGHT TO THIS LAND! BUT THERE IS ALSO THE LAW OF THE OPEN RANGE--- EVEN IF A STEER BLUNDERS HIS WAY THROUGH A FENCE AND ONTO YOUR LAND, YOU HAVE NO LEGAL RIGHT TO HARM HIM!
I PLOWED THIS LAND! I FENCED IT! NO ONE'S PUSHIN' ME OFF MY PROPERTY AND IF A STEER COMES ONTO IT, I'LL SHOOT IT DOWN!
LOOK, JIM! SOME STEERS GOT ONTO THAT FARM LAND!
SHOULD'VE KEPT A FEW MEN WATCHIN' THE HERD, BUT EVERYONE WAS SO TUCKERED OUT, I THOUGHT A REST WAS IN ORDER! ROUND 'EM UP!
JIM, DRAW! ONE OF THOSE MEN IS MASKED AND I RECKON HE'S PLANNIN' TO USE THAT COLT OF HIS ON YOUR CATTLE!
REACH, MISTER! NO HIRED OWLHOOT'S PLUGGIN' OUR STEERS!
YOU SOD-BUSTERS ARE GETTIN' MIGHTY BRAZEN, USIN' MASKED GUNMEN TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK! BUT WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT OUTLAW!

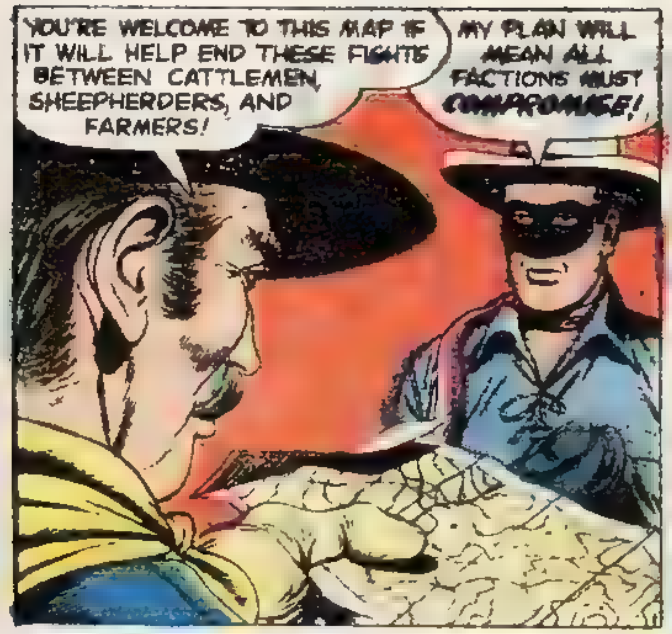
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
BANG!
YOU DROP-UM GUN PLENTY FAST!
MY GUN!
I'M NOT AN OUTLAW AND I WORK FOR NEITHER SIDE! TONTO AND I HAVE TRIED TO PREVENT A BATTLE! THE CATTLE KNOCKED A FENCE DOWN, PULL THEM BACK AND THERE'LL BE NO TROUBLE!
I'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE, BUT THIS NESTER'S FENCED IN OUR WATER HOLE!
THAT WATER HOLE'S ON MY LAND AND I NEED EVERY DROP IN IT FOR MY CROPS' IRRIGATION!
WE'VE BEEN DRIVING CATTLE THIS WAY LONG BEFORE YOU EVER BOARDED A TRAIN EAST TO SETTLE HERE! WE'VE ALWAYS USED THAT WATER!
MY FENCE IS UP AND THERE'LL BE A LOT OF HOMESTEADERS MANNING IT IN CASE YOU TRY TO USE THAT WATER!
WE'LL BE BACK LATER! WE'RE GOING THROUGH!

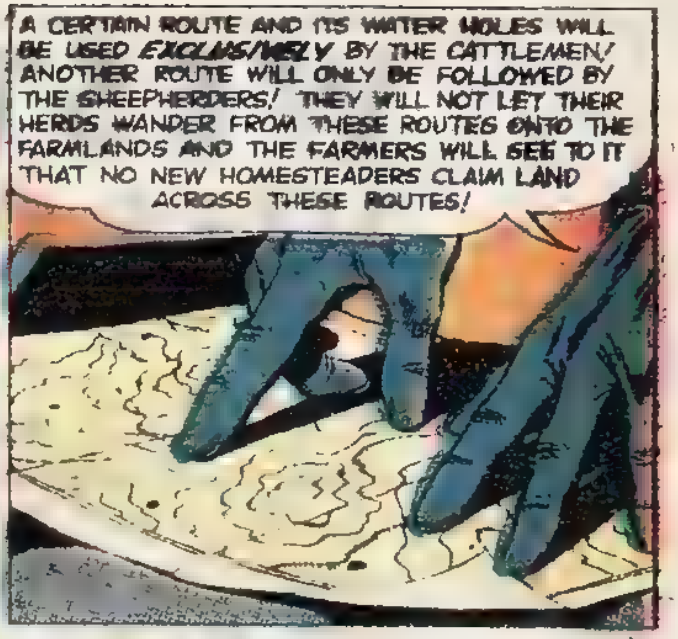
THERE BE PLENTY TROUBLE SOON!
THEY'LL NOT LISTEN TO REASON ANY MORE!
WE NEED HELP, TONTO! TAKE THIS SILVER BULLET TO FORT KENT! THE COMMANDER THERE HAS WORKED WITH US BEFORE! TELL HIM TO SEND TROOPS AT ONCE!
IT'S A FEW HOURS RIDE TO THE FORT AND BACK! THE CATTLEMEN MAY ATTACK THE FENCE FIRST--- UNLESS I CAN DELAY THEM!
GET-EM UP, SCOUT!
LATER---
THE CATTLEMEN HAVE ALL STARTED FOR THE FENCE! NO ONE HAS BEEN LEFT TO WATCH THE HERD IN THE DRAW--- THEY MAY BE THE WAY TO DELAY THE FIGHT!
GET ALONG! UP THERE! YAP! YIP!
BANG!
BLAM! BANG!

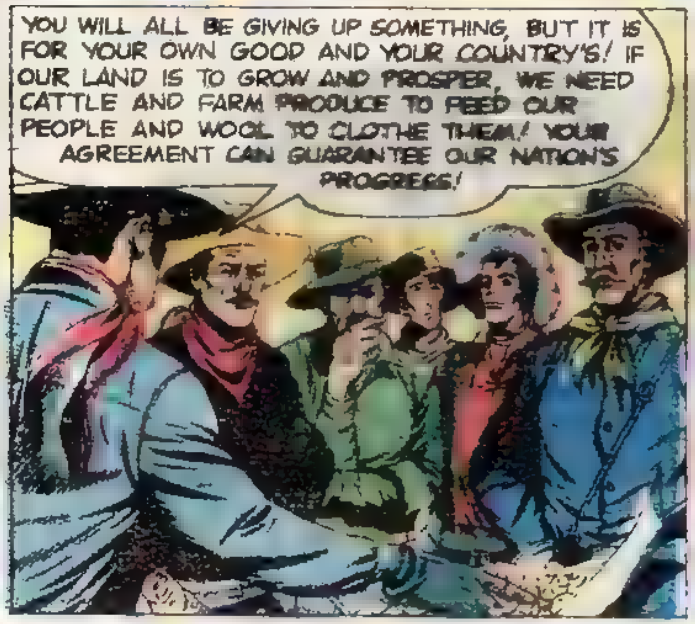

RUN ALONG! RUN!
BANG!
BLAM!
NOW TO HEAD THEM FOR THE FENCE!
BUT AS THE LONE RANGER DRIVES THE HERD ALONG, SUDDENLY---
SILVER!
IF I CAN'T SWING BACK ONTO SILVER, I'LL BE TRAMPLED!

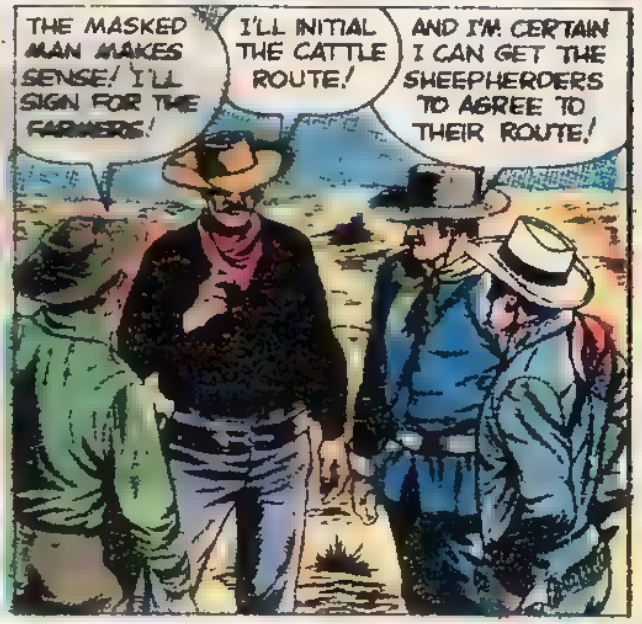

SAFE!---NOW TO MANEUVER THE HERD BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING FORCES!
AND AS THE CATTLEMEN START TO RIDE DOWN FOR THE FENCE, SUDDENLY---
JIM!
WHAT IN BLAZES? STAMPEDE!
THERE'S THE MASKED MAN... HE'S RUNNIN' THEM OFF!
BOYS, NEVER MIND THE NESTERS! STOP THOSE STEERS!
RED, BACK ME UP! WE'RE GOIN' TO GET THAT MASKED MEDDLER!

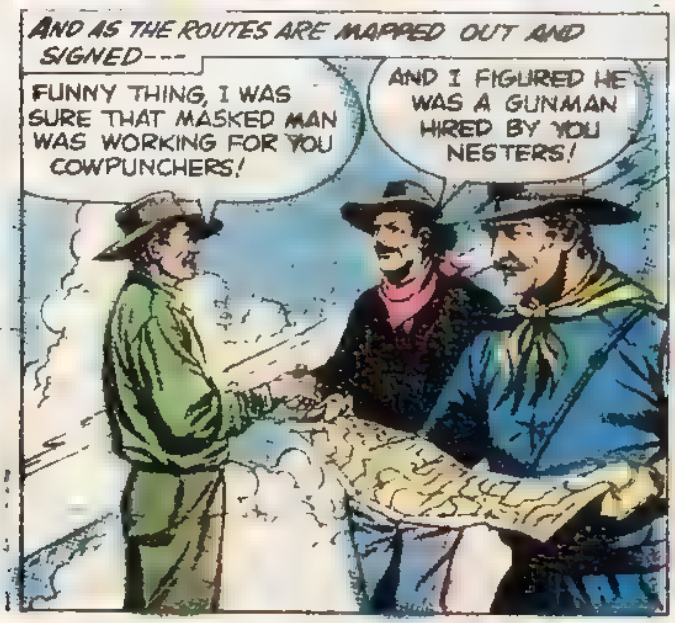
I'VE GOT THAT OWLHOOT LINED UP!
TH-THEY WINGED ME!
WHO IN BLAZES IS FIRIN'?
BANG!
BLAM!
BANG!
ALL OF YOU... PUT UP YOUR WEAPONS!
AS THE HERD IS HALTED, THE TROOPS QUICKLY DISARM THE CATTLEMEN AND FARMERS ---
WHAT ABOUT THAT OWLHOOT'S GUNS, COLONEL?
HE ISN'T AN OUTLAW! HE IS THE ONE WHO SENT FOR US TO PREVENT A RANGE WAR HERE!
COLONEL GAINES, WE'VE ONLY MOMENTARILY STOPPED A WAR BETWEEN THE FARMERS AND CATTLEMEN! BUT IF YOU HAVE A MAP, I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE A WAY TO PERMANENTLY PREVENT VIOLENCE!

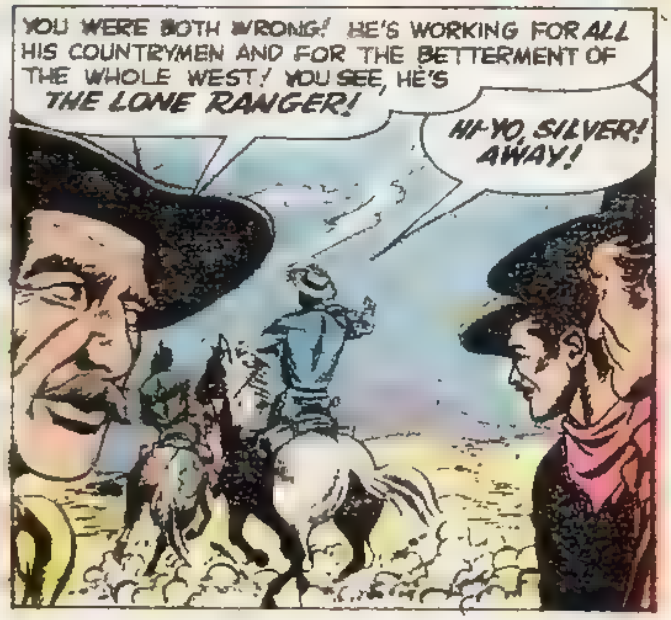

YOU'RE WELCOME TO THIS MAP IF IT WILL HELP END THESE FIGHTS BETWEEN CATTLEMEN, SHEEPHERDERS, AND FARMERS!
MY PLAN WILL MEAN ALL FACTIONS MUST COMPROMISE!


A CERTAIN ROUTE AND ITS WATER HOLES WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE CATTLEMEN! ANOTHER ROUTE WILL ONLY BE FOLLOWED BY THE SHEEPHERDERS! THEY WILL NOT LET THEIR HERDS WANDER FROM THESE ROUTES ONTO THE FARMLANDS AND THE FARMERS WILL SEE TO IT THAT NO NEW HOMESTEADERS CLAIM LAND ACROSS THESE ROUTES!


YOU WILL ALL BE GIVING UP SOMETHING, BUT IT IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD AND YOUR COUNTRY'S! IF OUR LAND IS TO GROW AND PROSPER, WE NEED CATTLE AND FARM PRODUCE TO FEED OUR PEOPLE AND WOOL TO CLOTHE THEM! YOUR AGREEMENT CAN GUARANTEE OUR NATION'S PROGRESS!


THE MASKED MAN MAKES SENSE! I'LL SIGN FOR THE FARMERS!
I'LL INITIAL THE CATTLE ROUTE!
AND I'M CERTAIN I CAN GET THE SHEEPHERDERS TO AGREE TO THEIR ROUTE!


AND AS THE ROUTES ARE MAPPED OUT AND SIGNED---
FUNNY THING, I WAS SURE THAT MASKED MAN WAS WORKING FOR YOU COWPUNCHERS!
AND I FIGURED HE WAS A GUNMAN HIRED BY YOU NESTERS!


YOU WERE BOTH WRONG! HE'S WORKING FOR ALL HIS COUNTRYMEN AND FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE WHOLE WEST! YOU SEE, HE'S THE LONE RANGER!
HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

WESTERN WILDFIRE

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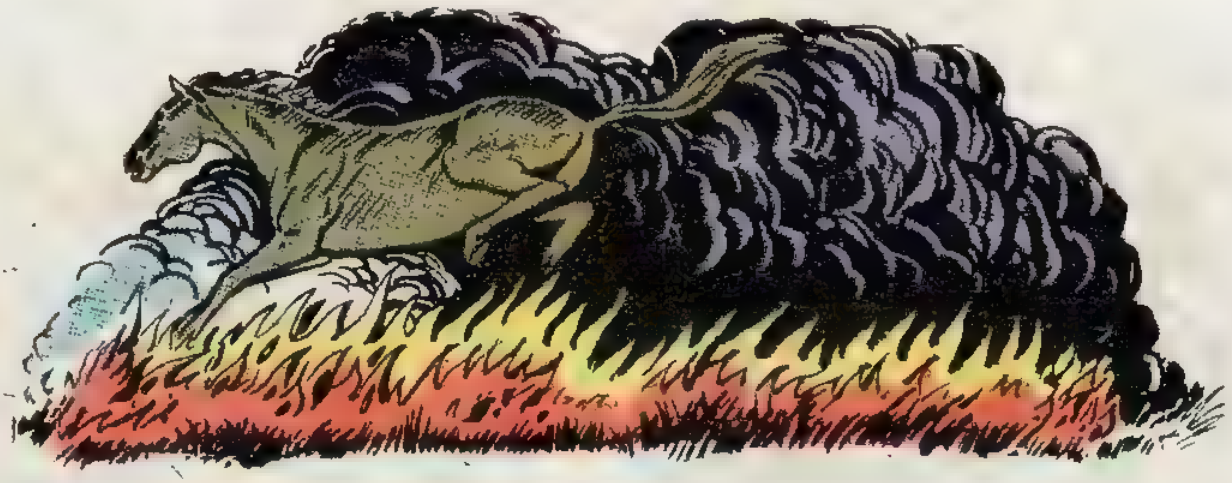
In the late summer and fall the buffalo grass dries under a merciless sun. It is then that any spark or flash of lightning can start a raging grass fire.



The only real safety lies behind the wall of flames, where the grass has already burned away. Some animals, acting by instinct, run deliberately at the fire and leap safely through it to the other side! Wild horses have been known to do this frequently. The ancestral memory of the times when their wild forebears leaped to safety may explain why tame horses sometimes run into burning barns, or refuse to leave their flaming stalls when a stable catches fire.

When the grass fire approaches a settlement on the wings of the wind, the ranchers and farmers have only one way to save their growing crops and their buildings. They try to clear a firebreak in the fire's path by cutting and removing all the grass in a wide swath. When the fire reaches the cleared ground, it cannot cross over because there is nothing to burn. Everyone stands on the safe side with buckets of water or blankets to put out stray sparks.

But when you are alone on the plains, it is impossible to build a fire-break. Never run directly away from the racing grass fire. If the wind blows hard enough, the fire can travel faster than you can run. Instead, run to one side, with the wind blowing on your left or right cheek and try to get to one side. A grass fire cannot travel against the wind and it moves very slowly to the right or left. If you can get to one side, the fire will pass you by. As a last resort, men have been known to leap straight through the flames to the charred earth behind!

TONTO

INDIAN SCOUT

IN THE DAYS BEFORE TONTO MEETS THE LONE RANGER, A WAGON TRAIN OF EASTERN IMMIGRANTS PUSHES WESTWARD ACROSS THE PLAINS AS SUDDENLY----

REDSKINS! CIRCLE THE WAGONS AN' BURN POWDER!

WHOOP! WHOOP!

AIEE!

THE GUIDE'S HIT!

TAKE HIS GUN, RALPH, AND USE IT!

AIEE!

KEEP FIRING! WE'RE DROPPING THEM!

BLAM

BANG

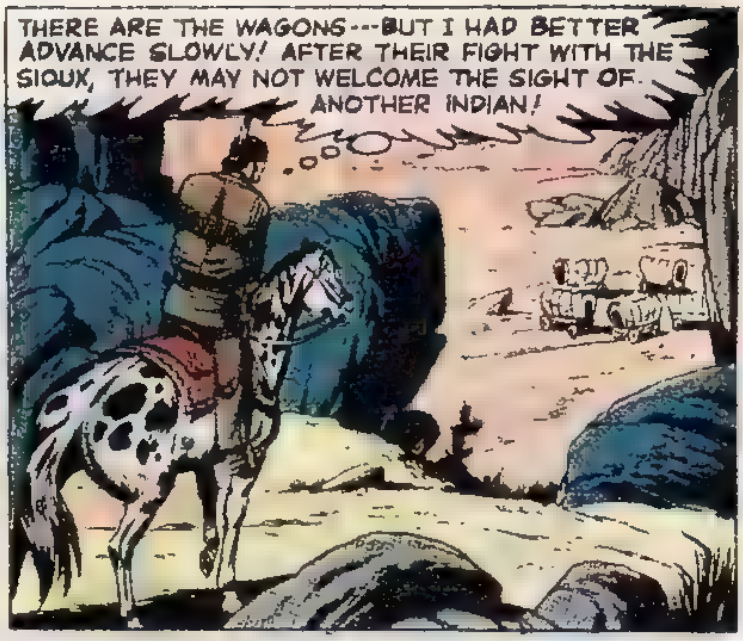
THEY'RE TURNING BACK!

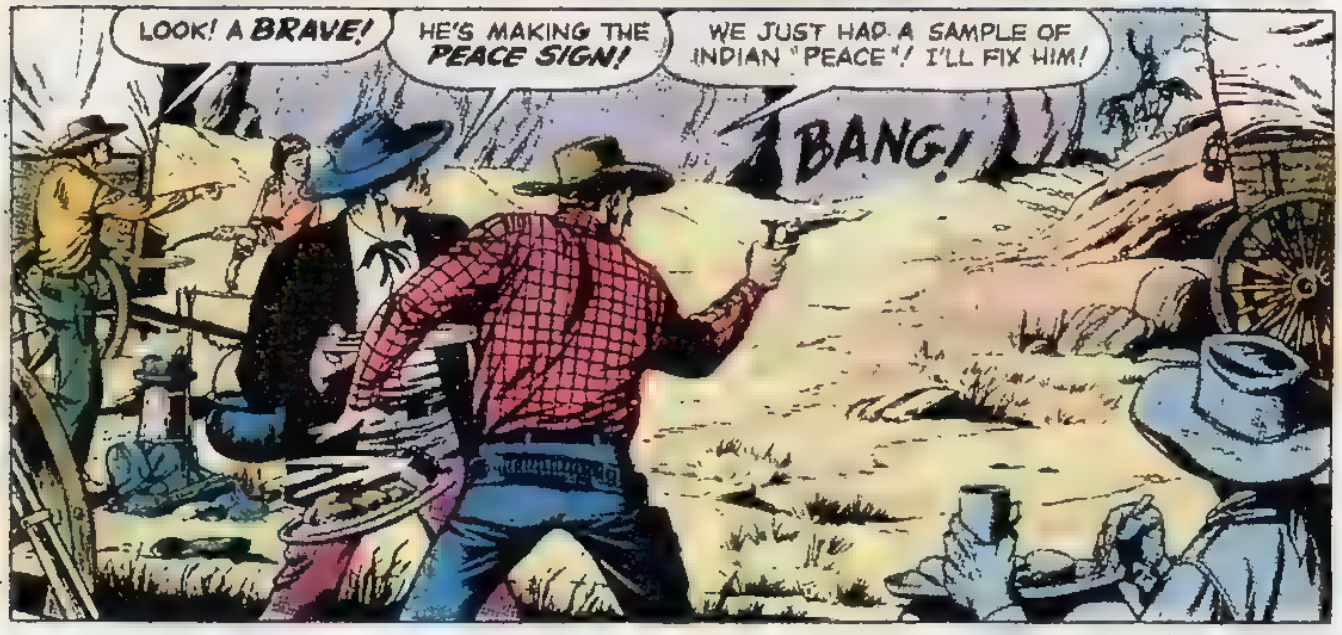
AND WE'VE GOT TO GO ON WESTWARD---BUT WITHOUT A GUIDE!

LATER--

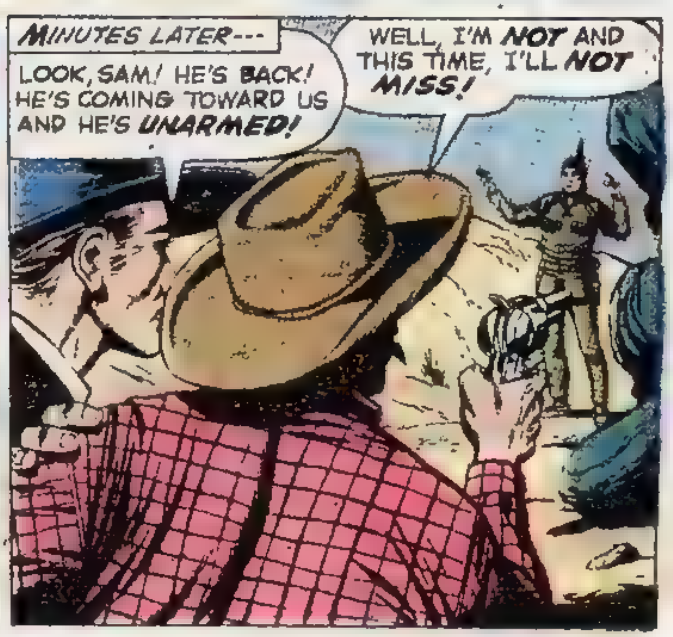
A WHITE MAN'S GRAVE!--- THE SIGNS SHOW A WAGON TRAIN WAS ATTACKED, BUT THE SIOUX WERE DRIVEN OFF! BUT WHY ARE THE WAGONS TAKING THEIR PRESENT COURSE? IT LEADS TO A LONG WATERLESS DESERT!

MAYBE I CAN MAKE THEM TURN BACK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

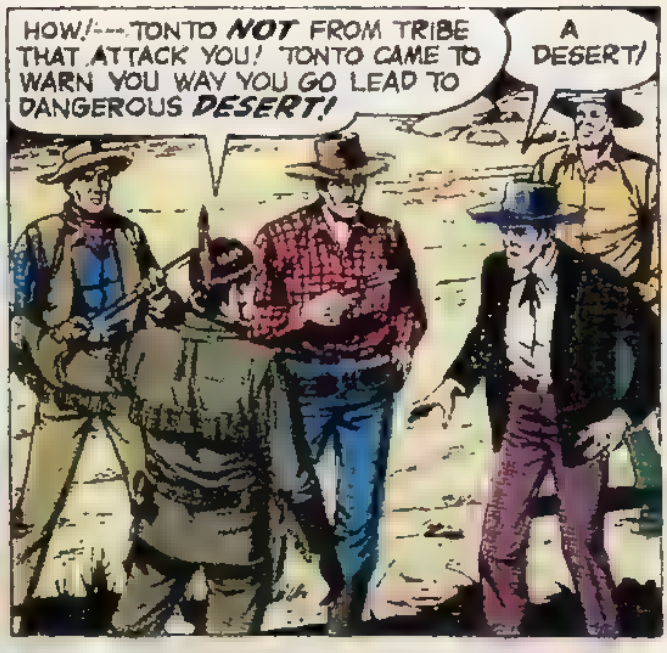

THERE ARE THE WAGONS---BUT I HAD BETTER ADVANCE SLOWLY! AFTER THEIR FIGHT WITH THE SIOUX, THEY MAY NOT WELCOME THE SIGHT OF ANOTHER INDIAN!

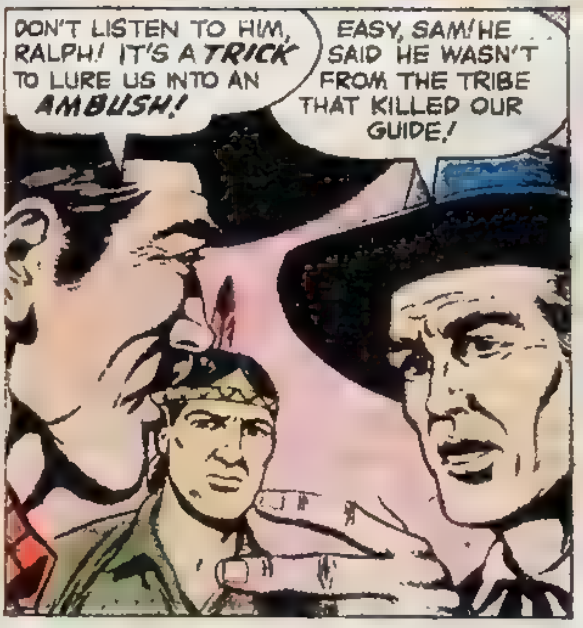

LOOK! A BRAVE!
HE'S MAKING THE PEACE SIGN!
WE JUST HAD A SAMPLE OF INDIAN "PEACE"! I'LL FIX HIM!
BANG!

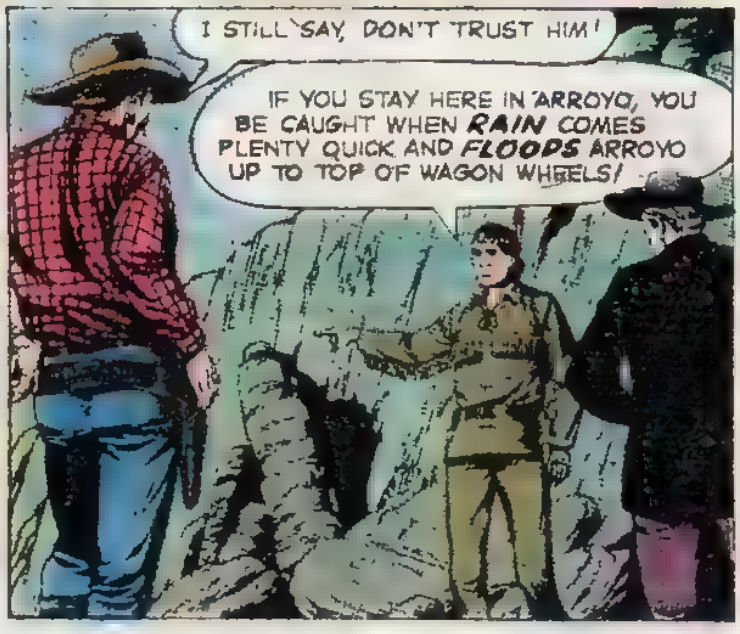
ZING!
PING!

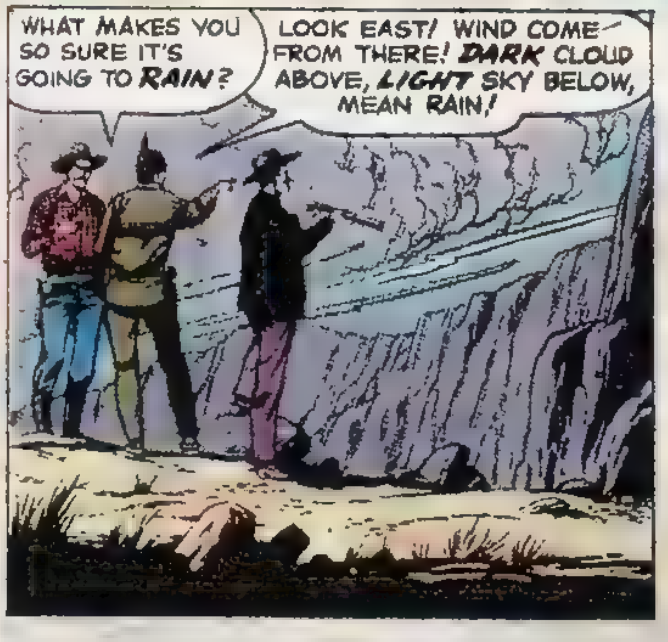

MINUTES LATER---
LOOK, SAM! HE'S BACK! HE'S COMING TOWARD US AND HE'S UNARMED!
WELL, I'M NOT AND THIS TIME, I'LL NOT MISS!

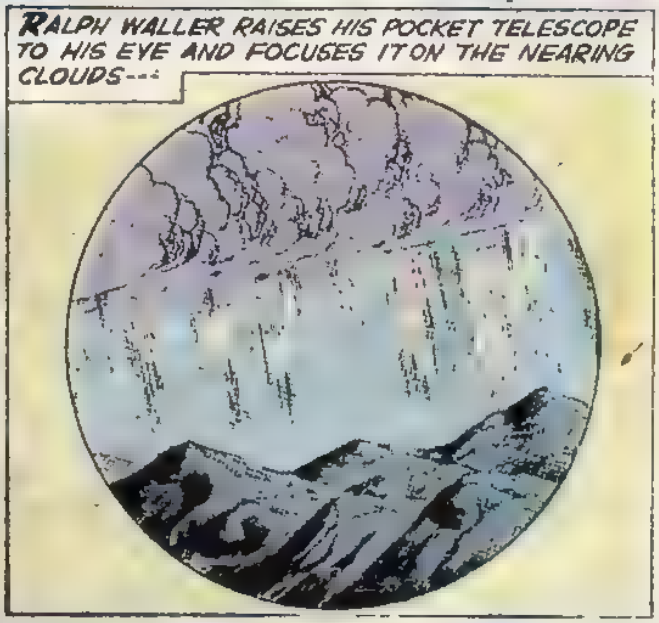
STOP! YOU CAN'T SHOOT A DEFENSELESS MAN!--- LET'S SEE WHAT HE WANTS!

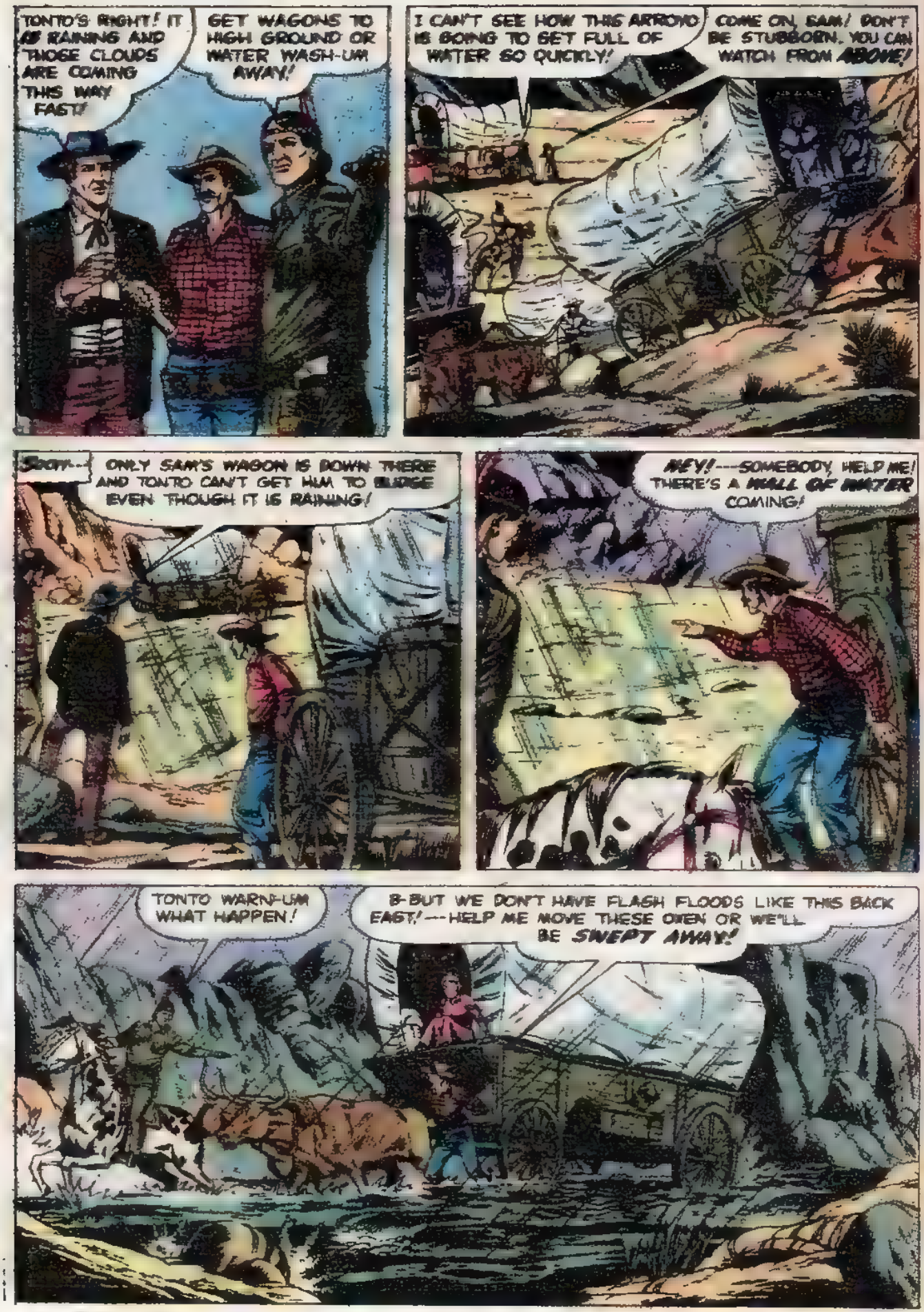

HOW!--- TONTO NOT FROM TRIBE THAT ATTACK YOU! TONTO CAME TO WARN YOU WAY YOU GO LEAD TO DANGEROUS DESERT!
A DESERT!

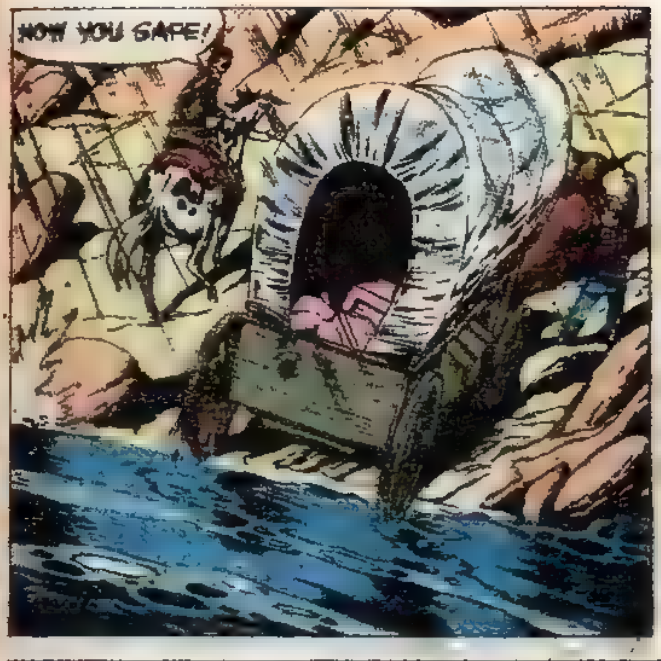

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, RALPH! IT'S A TRICK TO LURE US INTO AN AMBUSH!
EASY, SAM! HE SAID HE WASN'T FROM THE TRIBE THAT KILLED OUR GUIDE!

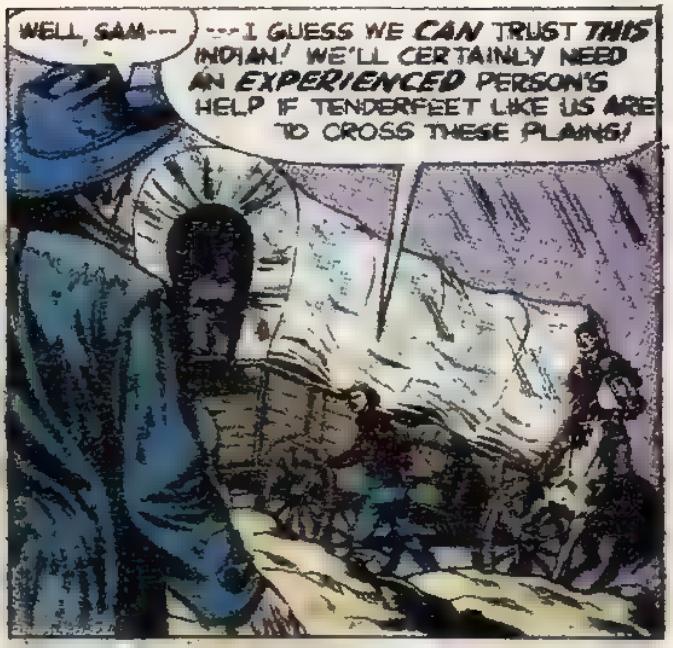

I STILL SAY, DON'T TRUST HIM!
IF YOU STAY HERE IN ARROYO, YOU BE CAUGHT WHEN RAIN COMES PLENTY QUICK AND FLOODS ARROYO UP TO TOP OF WAGON WHEELS!

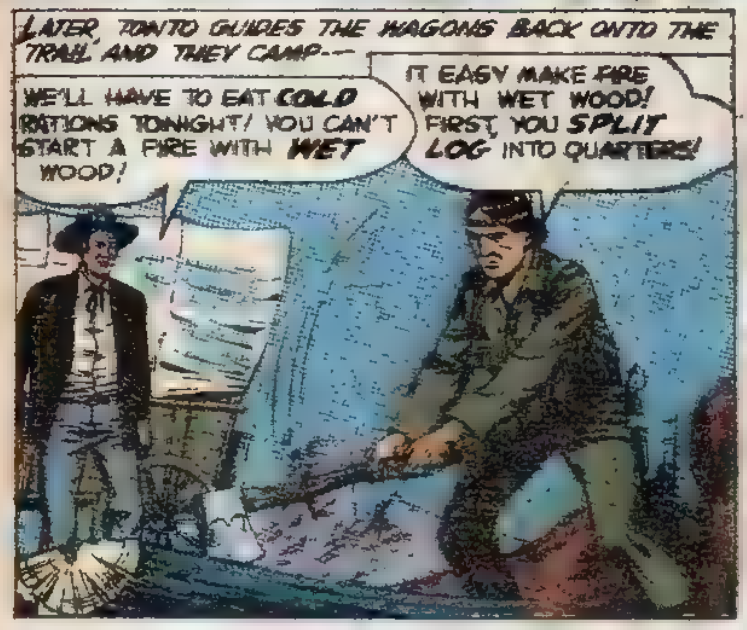

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE IT'S GOING TO RAIN?
LOOK EAST! WIND COME FROM THERE! DARK CLOUD ABOVE, LIGHT SKY BELOW, MEAN RAIN!


RALPH WALLER RAISES HIS POCKET TELESCOPE TO HIS EYE AND FOCUSES IT ON THE NEARING CLOUDS---


TONTO'S RIGHT! IT IS RAINING AND THOSE CLOUDS ARE COMING THIS WAY FAST!
GET WAGONS TO HIGH GROUND OR WATER WASH-UM AWAY!
I CAN'T SEE HOW THIS ARROYO IS GOING TO GET FULL OF WATER SO QUICKLY!
COME ON, SAM! DON'T BE STUBBORN. YOU CAN WATCH FROM ABOVE!
SHOW--
ONLY SAM'S WAGON IS DOWN THERE AND TONTO CAN'T GET HIM TO BUDGE EVEN THOUGH IT IS RAINING!
HEY!---SOMEBODY HELP ME! THERE'S A WALL OF WATER COMING!
TONTO WARN-UM WHAT HAPPEN!
B-BUT WE DON'T HAVE FLASH FLOODS LIKE THIS BACK EAST!---HELP ME MOVE THESE OXEN OR WE'LL BE SWEPT AWAY!

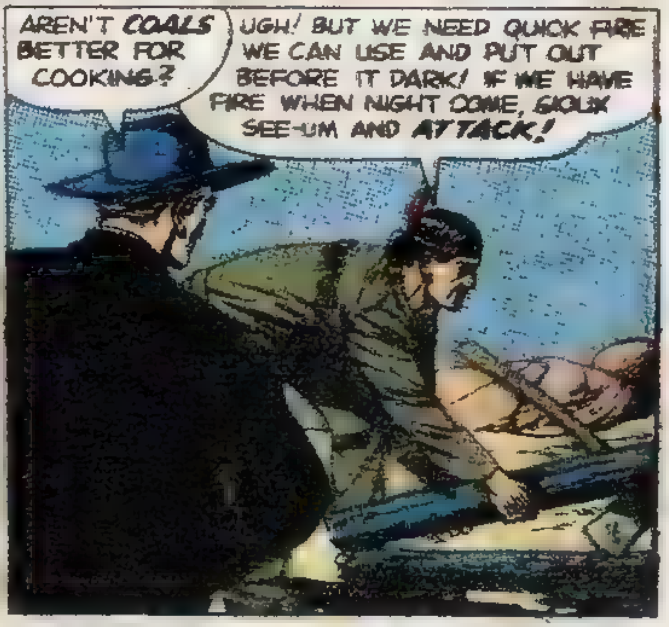

NOW YOU GAPE!

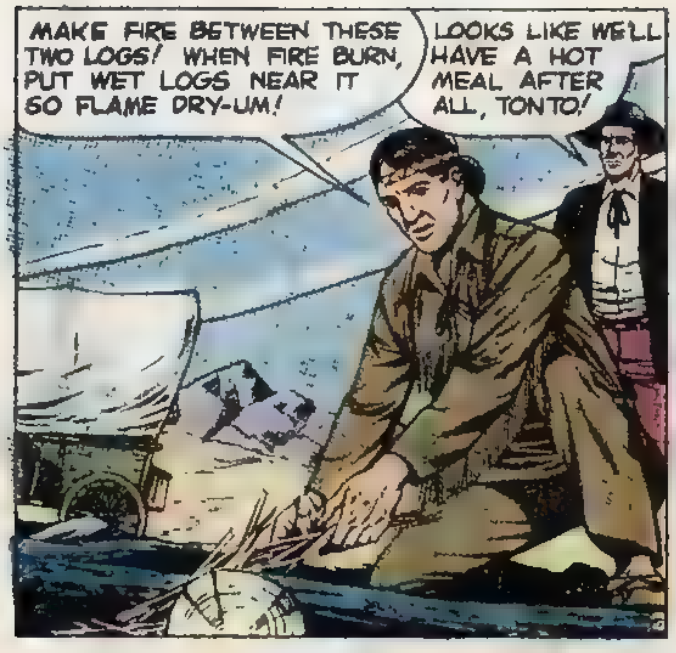

WELL, SAM---
---I GUESS WE CAN TRUST THIS INDIAN! WE'LL CERTAINLY NEED AN EXPERIENCED PERSON'S HELP IF TENDERFEET LIKE US ARE TO CROSS THESE PLAINS!


LATER, TONTO GUIDES THE WAGONS BACK ONTO THE TRAIL AND THEY CAMP---
WE'LL HAVE TO EAT COLD RATIONS TONIGHT! YOU CAN'T START A FIRE WITH WET WOOD!
IT EASY MAKE FIRE WITH WET WOOD! FIRST, YOU SPLIT LOG INTO QUARTERS!

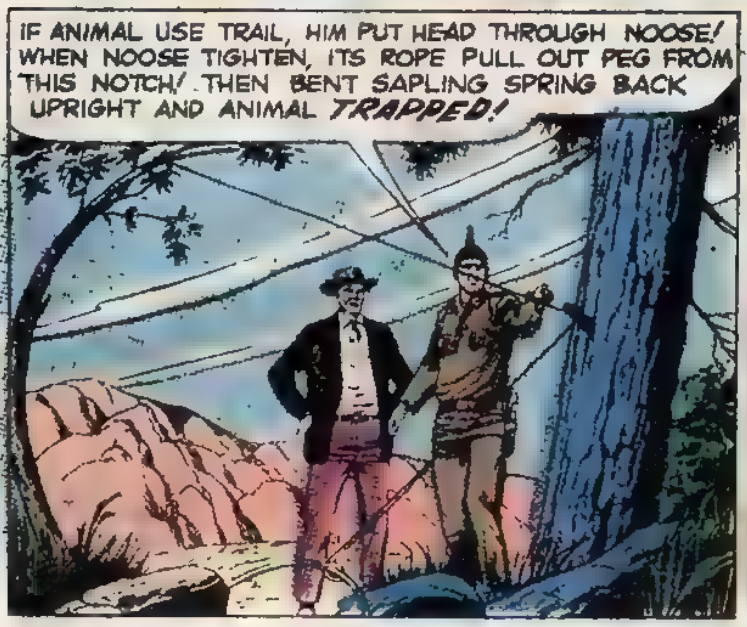
THEN YOU CUT OUT CORE OF LOG! IT DRY!

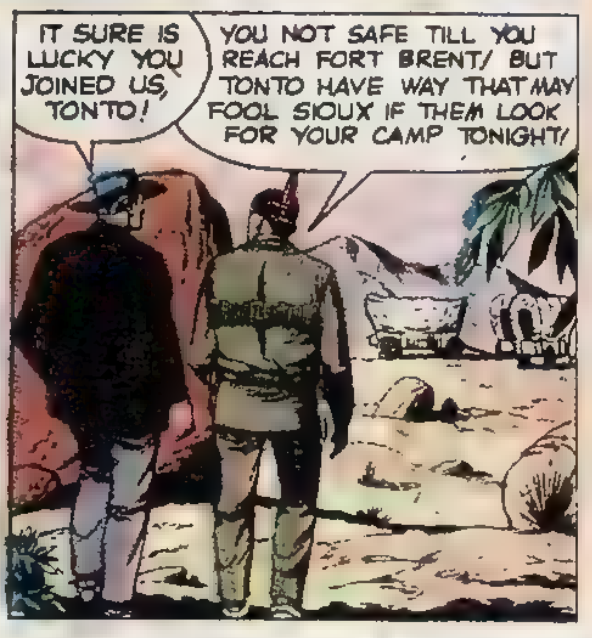
SAY! IT IS DRY!
NOW WE USE SOFTWOOD FOR FIRE LIKE CEDAR AND BIRCH! THEM MAKE QUICK HOT FIRE, BUT NOT MANY COALS!

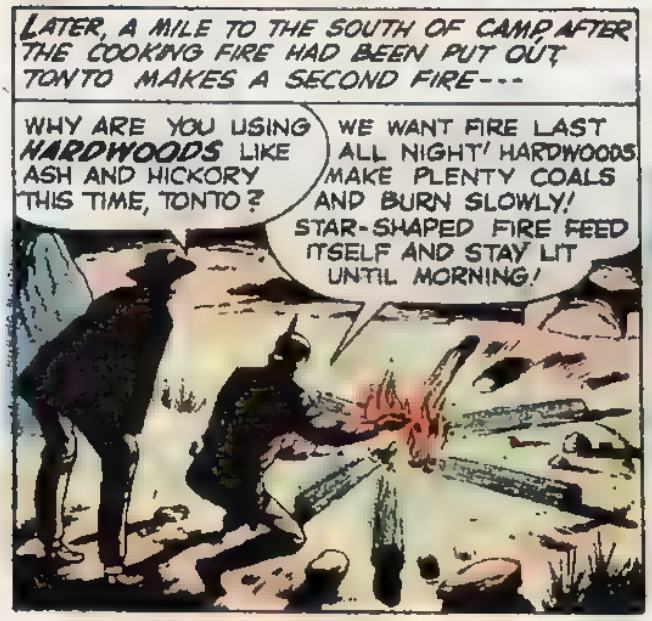

AREN'T COALS BETTER FOR COOKING?
UGH! BUT WE NEED QUICK FIRE WE CAN USE AND PUT OUT BEFORE IT DARK! IF WE HAVE FIRE WHEN NIGHT COME, SIOUX SEE-UM AND ATTACK!

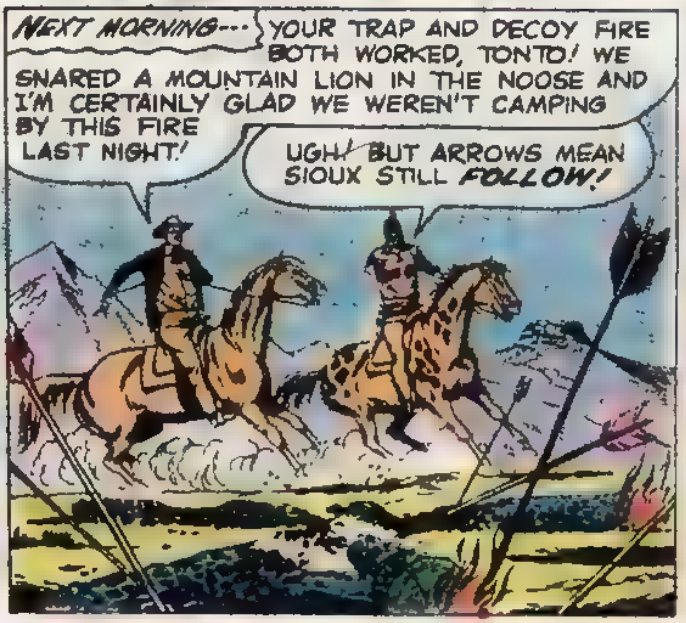

MAKE FIRE BETWEEN THESE TWO LOGS! WHEN FIRE BURN, PUT WET LOGS NEAR IT SO FLAME DRY-UM!
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE A HOT MEAL AFTER ALL, TONTO!

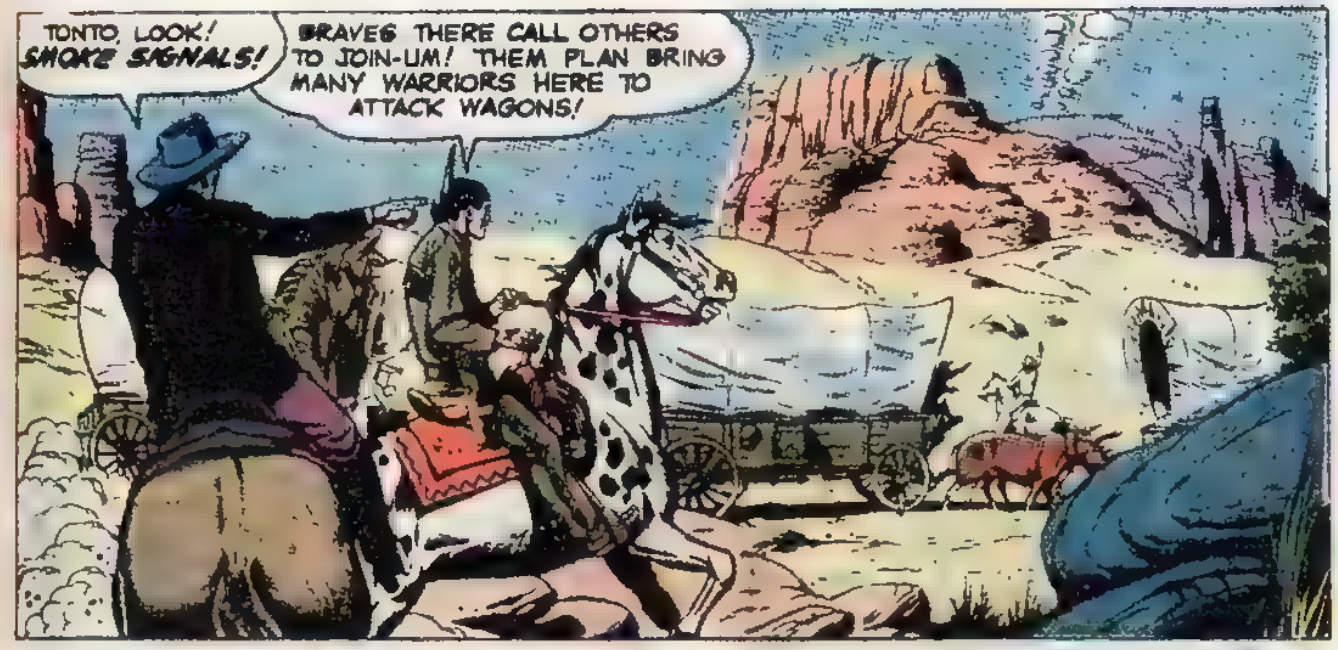
SOON, AT A NEAR-BY SALT LICK--
TONTO, DON'T YOU USE BAIT IN THAT RUNNING NOOSE TRAP?
NO! THIS TRAIL ANIMALS TAKE AT NIGHT WHEN THEM GO TO SALT LICK!

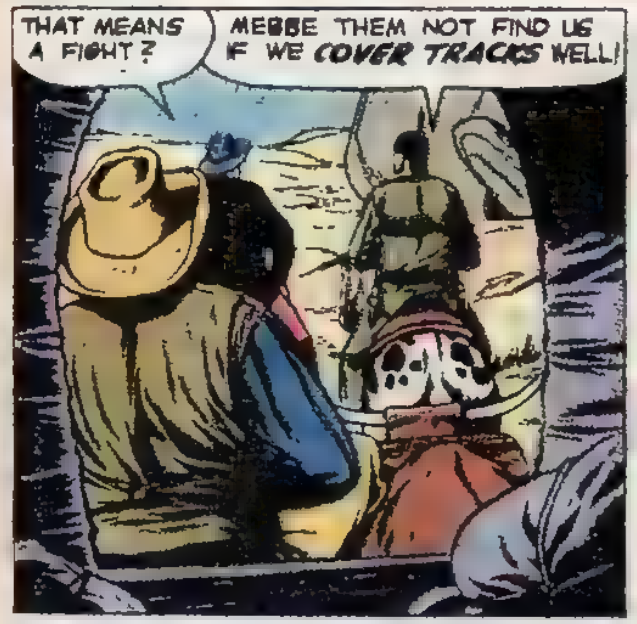

IF ANIMAL USE TRAIL, HIM PUT HEAD THROUGH NOOSE! WHEN NOOSE TIGHTEN, ITS ROPE PULL OUT PEG FROM THIS NOTCH! THEN BENT SAPLING SPRING BACK UPRIGHT AND ANIMAL TRAPPED!

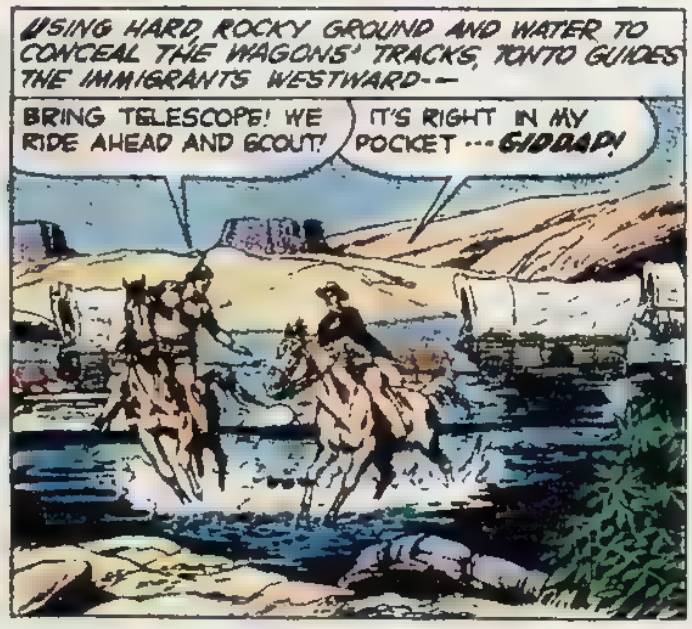

IT SURE IS LUCKY YOU JOINED US, TONTO!
YOU NOT SAFE TILL YOU REACH FORT BRENT/ BUT TONTO HAVE WAY THAT MAY FOOL SIOUX IF THEM LOOK FOR YOUR CAMP TONIGHT/

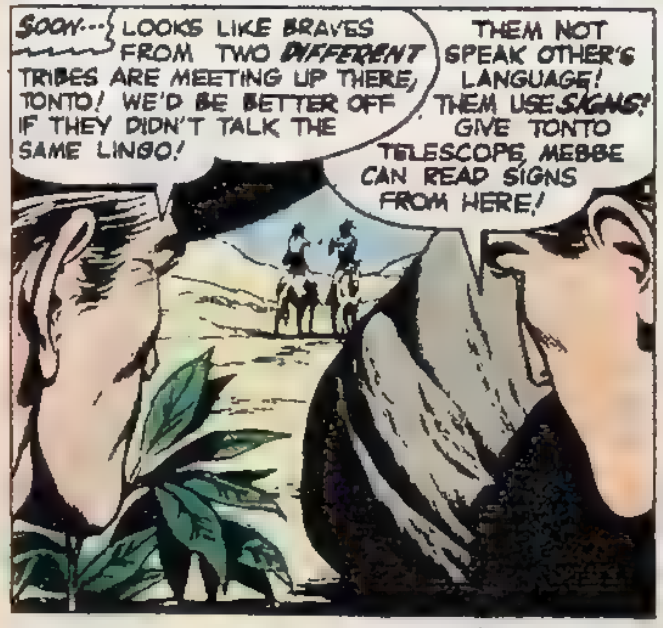

LATER, A MILE TO THE SOUTH OF CAMP AFTER THE COOKING FIRE HAD BEEN PUT OUT, TONTO MAKES A SECOND FIRE---
WHY ARE YOU USING HARDWOODS LIKE ASH AND HICKORY THIS TIME, TONTO?
WE WANT FIRE LAST ALL NIGHT/ HARDWOODS MAKE PLENTY COALS AND BURN SLOWLY! STAR-SHAPED FIRE FEED ITSELF AND STAY LIT UNTIL MORNING!

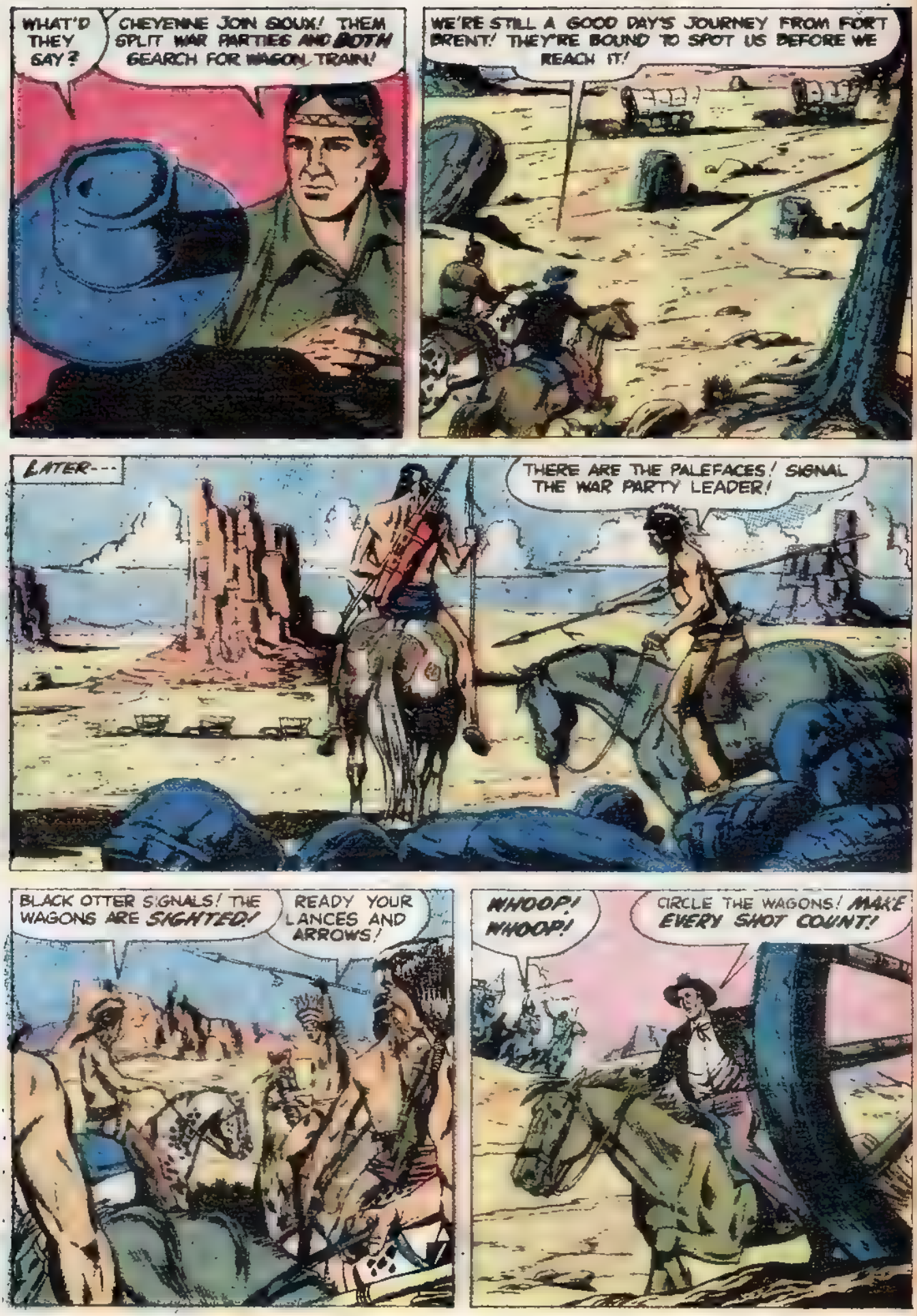

NEXT MORNING---
YOUR TRAP AND DECOY FIRE BOTH WORKED, TONTO! WE SNARED A MOUNTAIN LION IN THE NOOSE AND I'M CERTAINLY GLAD WE WEREN'T CAMPING BY THIS FIRE LAST NIGHT!
UGH! BUT ARROWS MEAN SIOUX STILL FOLLOW!


TONTO, LOOK! SMOKE SIGNALS!
BRAVES THERE CALL OTHERS TO JOIN-UM! THEM PLAN BRING MANY WARRIORS HERE TO ATTACK WAGONS!


THAT MEANS A FIGHT?
MEBBE THEM NOT FIND US IF WE COVER TRACKS WELL!

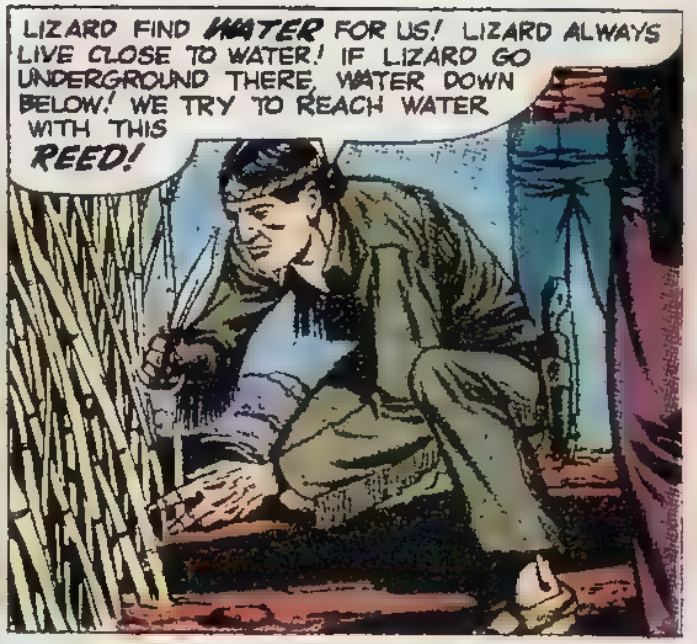

USING HARD, ROCKY GROUND AND WATER TO CONCEAL THE WAGONS' TRACKS, TONTO GUIDES THE IMMIGRANTS WESTWARD--
BRING TELESCOPE! WE RIDE AHEAD AND SCOUT!
IT'S RIGHT IN MY POCKET ---GIDDAP!

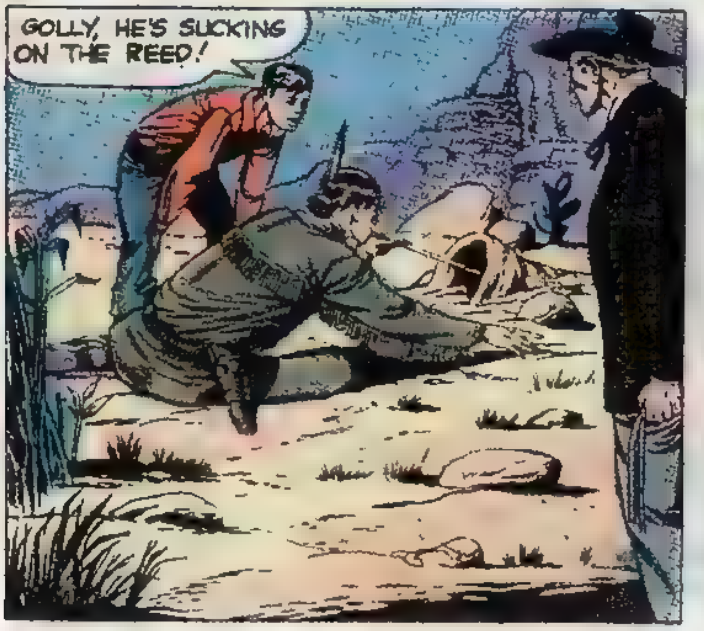

SOON---
LOOKS LIKE BRAVES FROM TWO DIFFERENT TRIBES ARE MEETING UP THERE, TONTO! WE'D BE BETTER OFF IF THEY DIDN'T TALK THE SAME LINGO!
THEM NOT SPEAK OTHER'S LANGUAGE! THEM USE SIGNS! GIVE TONTO TELESCOPE, MEBBE CAN READ SIGNS FROM HERE!


WHAT'D THEY SAY?
CHEYENNE JOIN SIOUX! THEM SPLIT WAR PARTIES AND BOTH SEARCH FOR WAGON TRAIN!
WE'RE STILL A GOOD DAY'S JOURNEY FROM FORT BRENT! THEY'RE BOUND TO SPOT US BEFORE WE REACH IT!
LATER---
THERE ARE THE PALEFACES! SIGNAL THE WAR PARTY LEADER!
BLACK OTTER SIGNALS! THE WAGONS ARE SIGHTED!
READY YOUR LANCES AND ARROWS!
WHOOP! WHOOP!
CIRCLE THE WAGONS! MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!

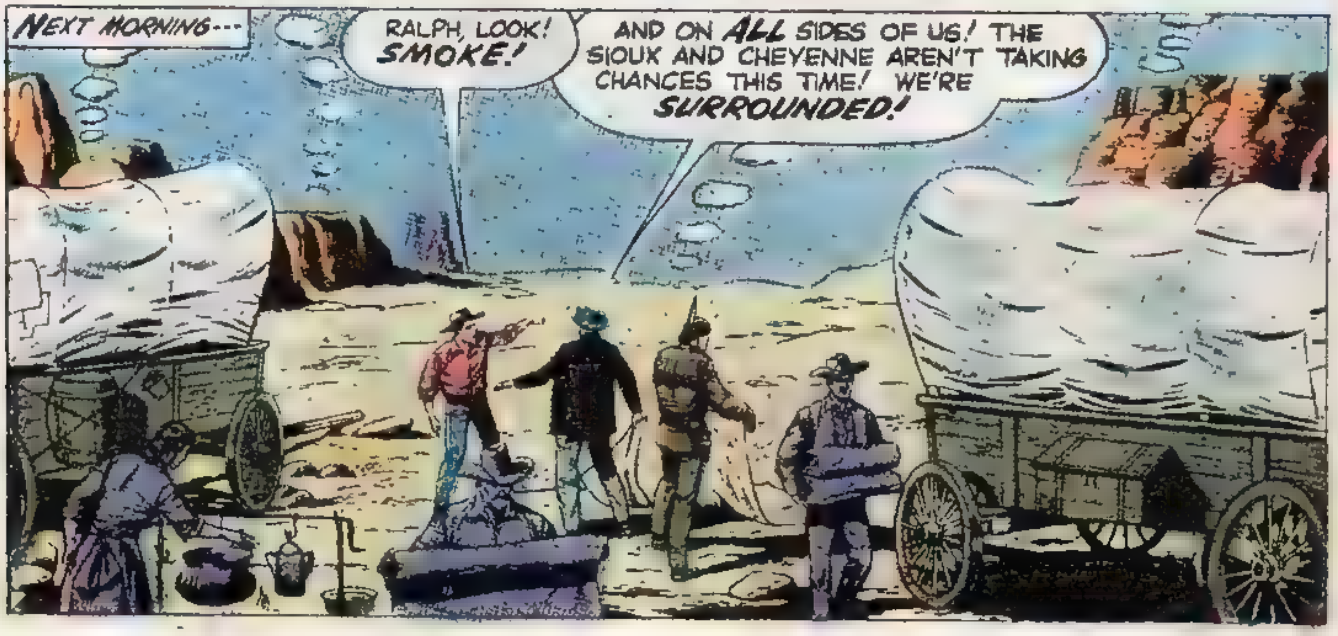
AIEE!
BANG!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BANG!
THUMP!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! THEY'RE RIDING OFF! WE'VE BEATEN THEM BACK AGAIN!
LATER---
TONTO, YOUNG JIMMY HERE JUST NOTICED IT! AN ARROW STRUCK THE WATER BARREL IN THE FIGHT--- THERE'S NOT A DROP LEFT!
THAT BAD! NEXT WATER HOLE AHEAD PLENTY LONG JOURNEY FOR OXEN AND PEOPLE WITHOUT DRINK! WE CAN'T GO BACK TO LAST WATER HOLE, SIOUX AND CHEYENNE THERE!

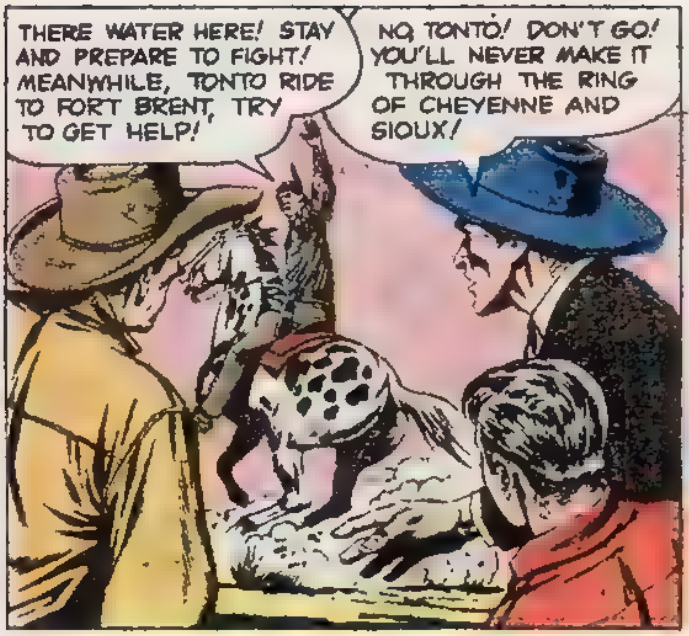
MEBBE WE HAVE LUCK! WATCH HOLE WHERE LIZARD GO!
WHY WATCH A LIZARD, TONTO?


LIZARD FIND WATER FOR US! LIZARD ALWAYS LIVE CLOSE TO WATER! IF LIZARD GO UNDERGROUND THERE, WATER DOWN BELOW! WE TRY TO REACH WATER WITH THIS REED!

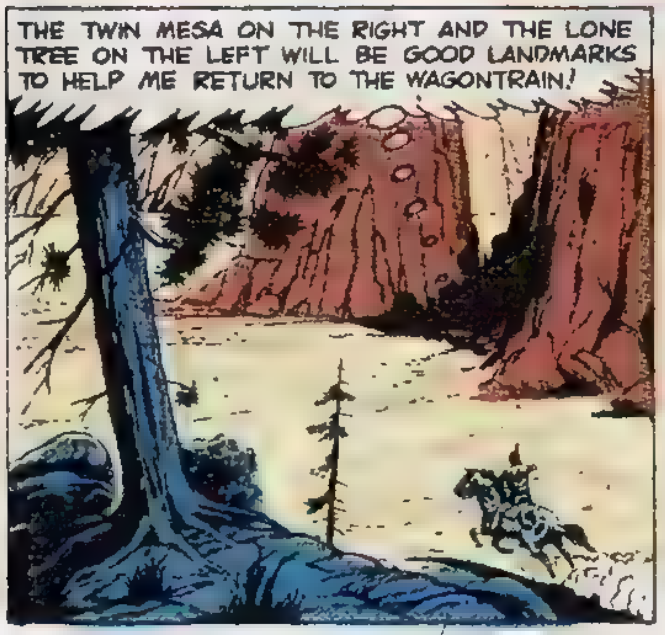

GOLLY, HE'S SUCKING ON THE REED!

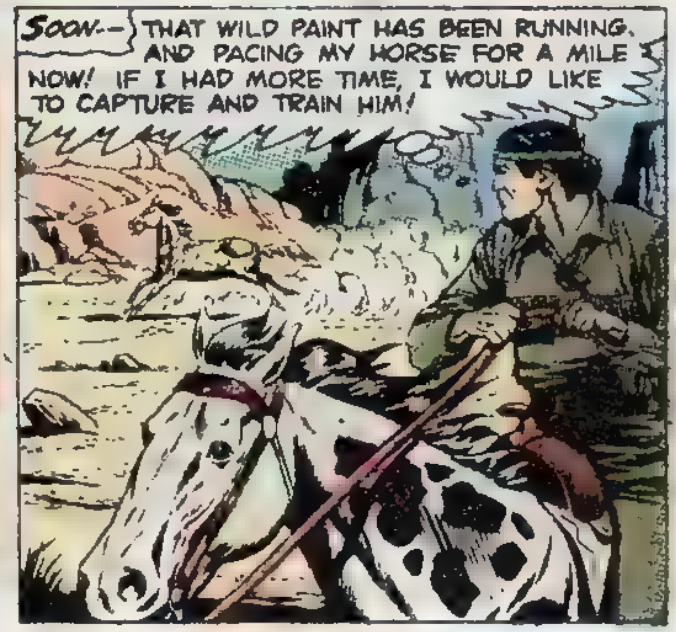
WATER!---IT CLEAN AND PURE WATER! WE DRINK HERE AND THEN RIDE FOR NEXT WATER HOLE!

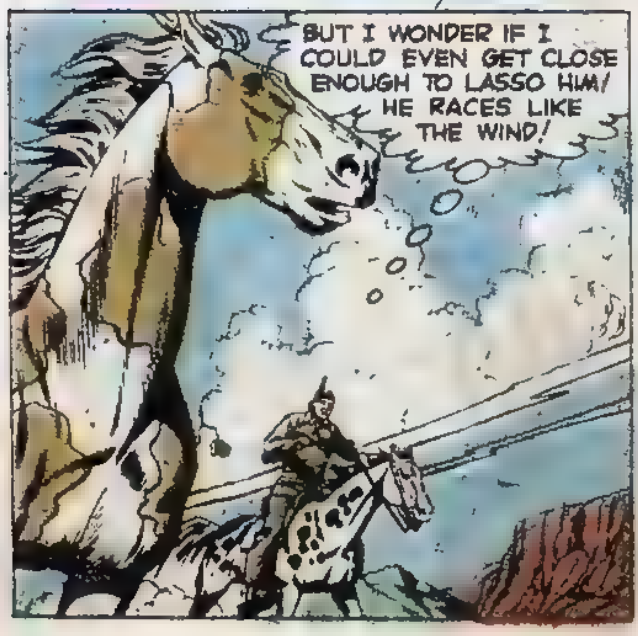

NEXT MORNING---
RALPH, LOOK! SMOKE!
AND ON ALL SIDES OF US! THE SIOUX AND CHEYENNE AREN'T TAKING CHANCES THIS TIME! WE'RE SURROUNDED!

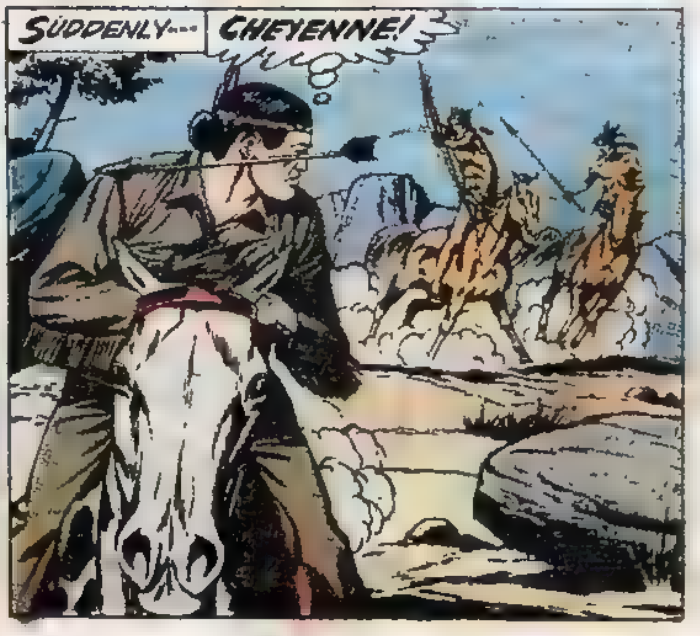

THERE WATER HERE! STAY AND PREPARE TO FIGHT! MEANWHILE, TONTO RIDE TO FORT BRENT, TRY TO GET HELP!
NO, TONTO! DON'T GO! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH THE RING OF CHEYENNE AND SIOUX!

BUT TONTO URGES HIS HORSE ON---
FORT BRENT IS TO THE WEST! IT IS MORNING NOW, SO I CAN GUIDE MYSELF BY KEEPING THE SUN AT MY BACK!

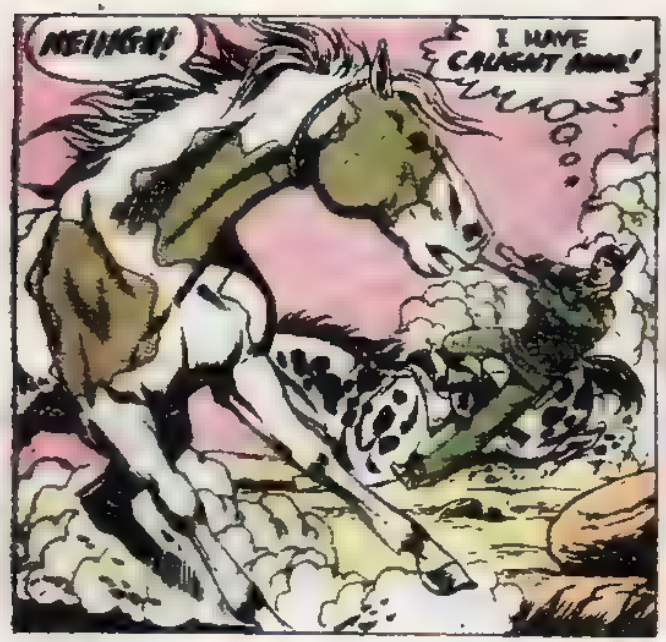

THE TWIN MESA ON THE RIGHT AND THE LONE TREE ON THE LEFT WILL BE GOOD LANDMARKS TO HELP ME RETURN TO THE WAGONTRAIN!

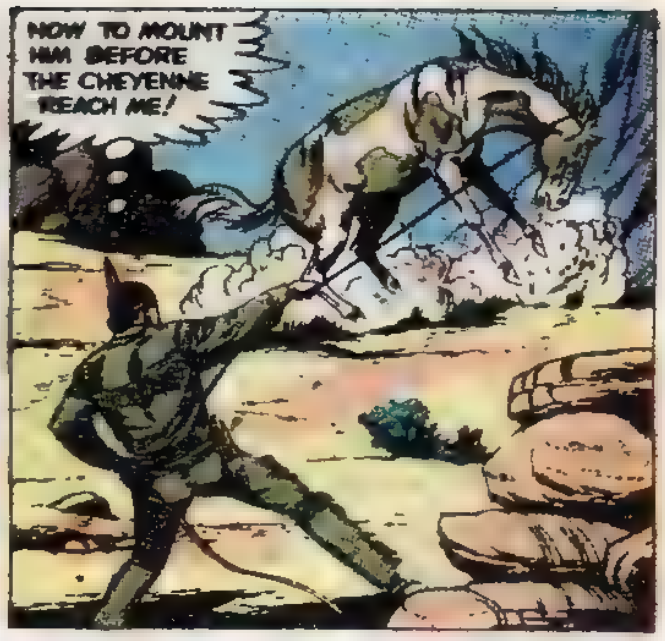

SOON-- THAT WILD PAINT HAS BEEN RUNNING AND PACING MY HORSE FOR A MILE NOW! IF I HAD MORE TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO CAPTURE AND TRAIN HIM!

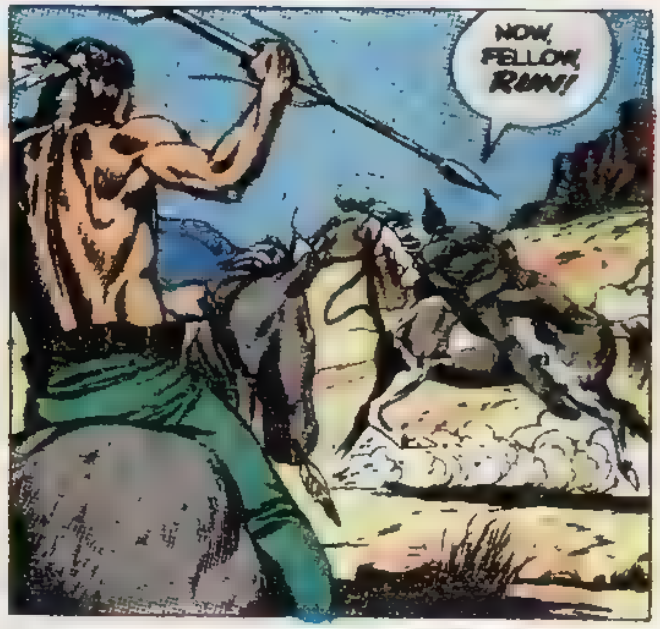

BUT I WONDER IF I COULD EVEN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO LASSO HIM! HE RACES LIKE THE WIND!

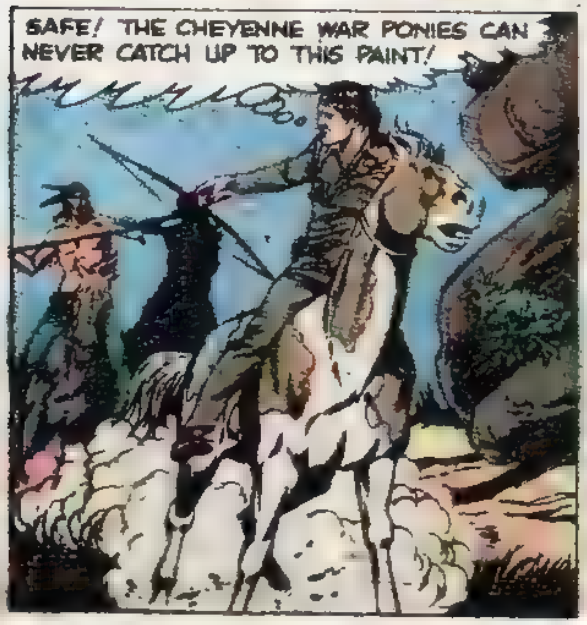

SUDDENLY--- CHEYENNE!

MY ONLY HOPE IS IN THE SPEED OF MY HORSE!
NEIIIGH!
HIS HORSE IS HIT!
IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO COUNT COUP WITH MY LANCE!
THE PAINT—IF I CAN ONLY GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM TO THROW MY LASSO!
THE PAINT IS OUTDISTANCING ME---HE KEEPS JUST OUT OF RANGE!
MY HORSE IS FALLING! I WILL HAVE TO THROW!



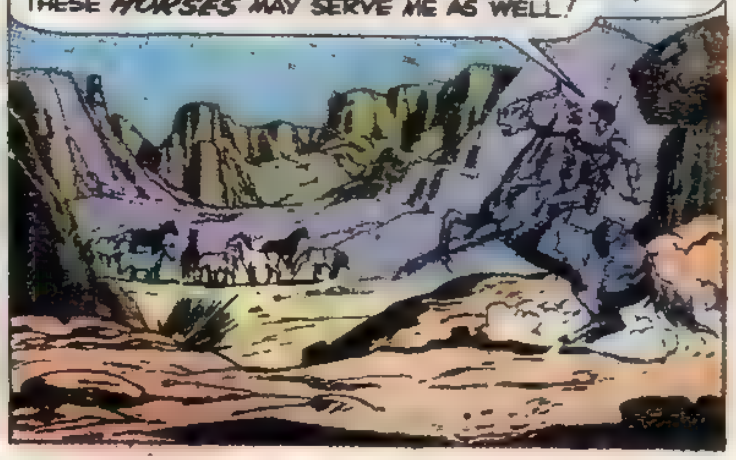






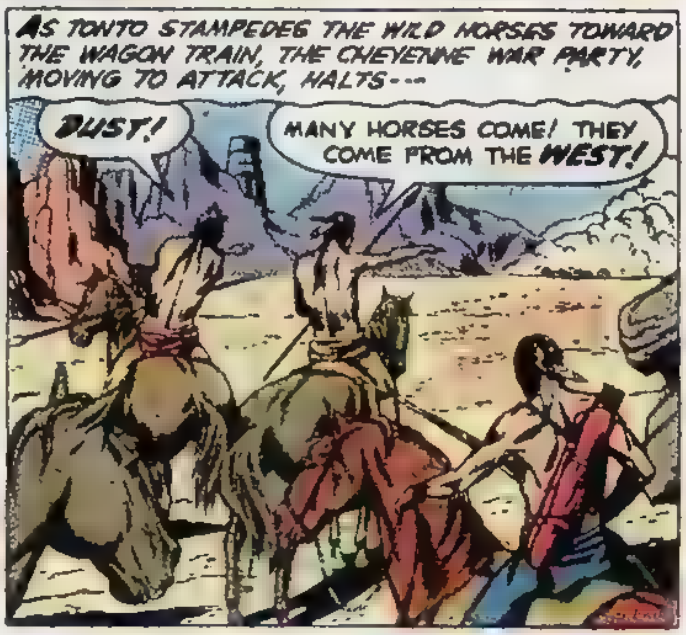
DESPITE TONTO'S EFFORTS TO HEAD WEST FOR FORT BRENT, THE PAINT KEEPS EDGING TOWARD THE HILLSIDE AND SUDDENLY---

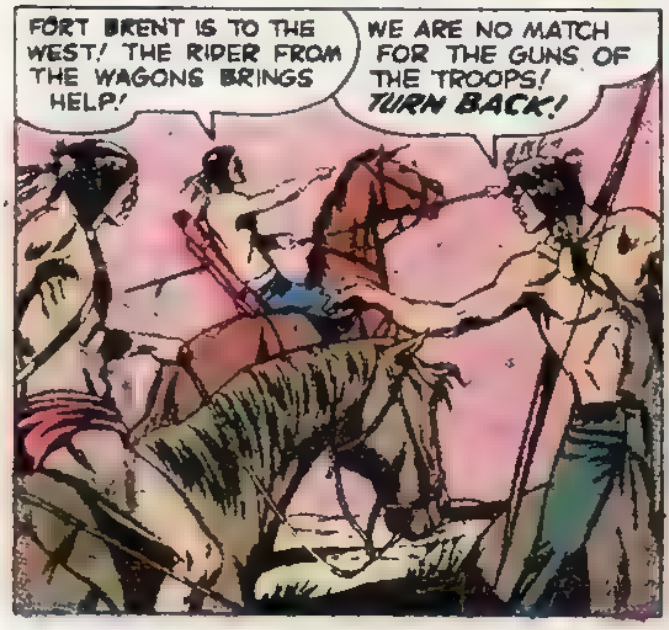
THIS BOX CANYON MUST BE HIS HOME!---I WANTED TO RETURN TO THE WAGON TRAIN WITH TROOPS, BUT THESE *HORSES* MAY SERVE ME AS WELL!

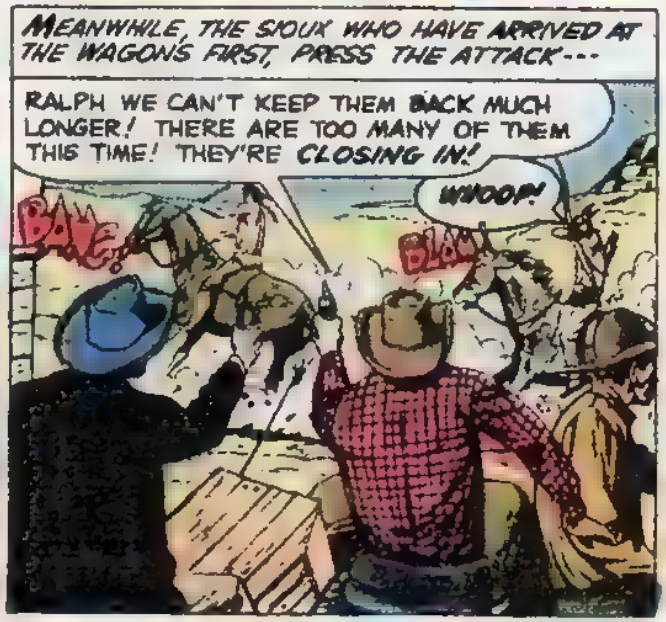


GIA! UP! RUN!

WHOOP! WHOOP!


AS TONTO STAMPEDES THE WILD HORSES TOWARD THE WAGON TRAIN, THE CHEYENNE WAR PARTY, MOVING TO ATTACK, HALTS---
DUST!
MANY HORSES COME! THEY COME FROM THE WEST!


FORT BRENT IS TO THE WEST! THE RIDER FROM THE WAGONS BRINGS HELP!
WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THE GUNS OF THE TROOPS! TURN BACK!


MEANWHILE, THE SIOUX WHO HAVE ARRIVED AT THE WAGONS FIRST, PRESS THE ATTACK---
RALPH WE CAN'T KEEP THEM BACK MUCH LONGER! THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM THIS TIME! THEY'RE CLOSING IN!
WHOOP!
BANG!
BLAM!

AS THE YELPING SIOUX RACE FORWARD TO MAKE A FINAL ASSAULT, SUDDENLY---
GIA!
BLAM! BANG!
BANG!
NEIIIGH!
AIEEE!
NEIIIGH!
THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT THERE, THEY CAN'T CLOSE IN! KEEP FIRING!
BANG!
BLAM!
AIEEE!

TONTO! YOU'RE SAFE!
UGH. TONTO NOT REACH FORT, BUT HORSES CHASE OFF SIOUX AS WELL AS TROOPS! NOW YOU MAKE FORT BRENT!
GEE, TONTO, THAT HANDSOME PAINT YOU RODE UP ON IS STARTING AFTER THE OTHER HORSES! STOP HIM!
NO, JIMMY! TONTO WANT-UM PLENTY BAD! BUT PAINT LEAD TONTO TO OTHER HORSES THAT SAVE WAGON TRAIN! IF PAINT WANT TO JOIN-UM, TONTO NOT STOP-UM!
THE PAINT GALLOPS FORWARD AFTER THE DEPARTING WILD HORSES! THEN HE LOOKS BACK AND SEES TONTO WATCHING! HE SLOWS TO A TROT, HESITATES, THEN SUDDENLY, TURNS BACK----
NOW HIM REALLY TONTO'S HORSE!
TONTO, YOU GUIDED US ACROSS THE PLAINS, YOU'RE AN INDIAN SCOUT, YOUR HORSE SHOULD TELL THAT! WHY NOT CALL HIM--- SCOUT!
SCOUT?---UGH! IT SOUND PLENTY GOOD TO TONTO!--- HOW IT SOUND TO YOU, FELLOW? SHALL TONTO CALL YOU SCOUT?
NEIIIGH!
TONTO, HE DOES LIKE THE NAME!
I SURE LEARNED NOT TO JUDGE ALL INDIANS BY SOME! I GUESS THAT GOES FOR JUDGING ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE! IF IT WEREN'T FOR TONTO, WE'D CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN IN A FIX!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!

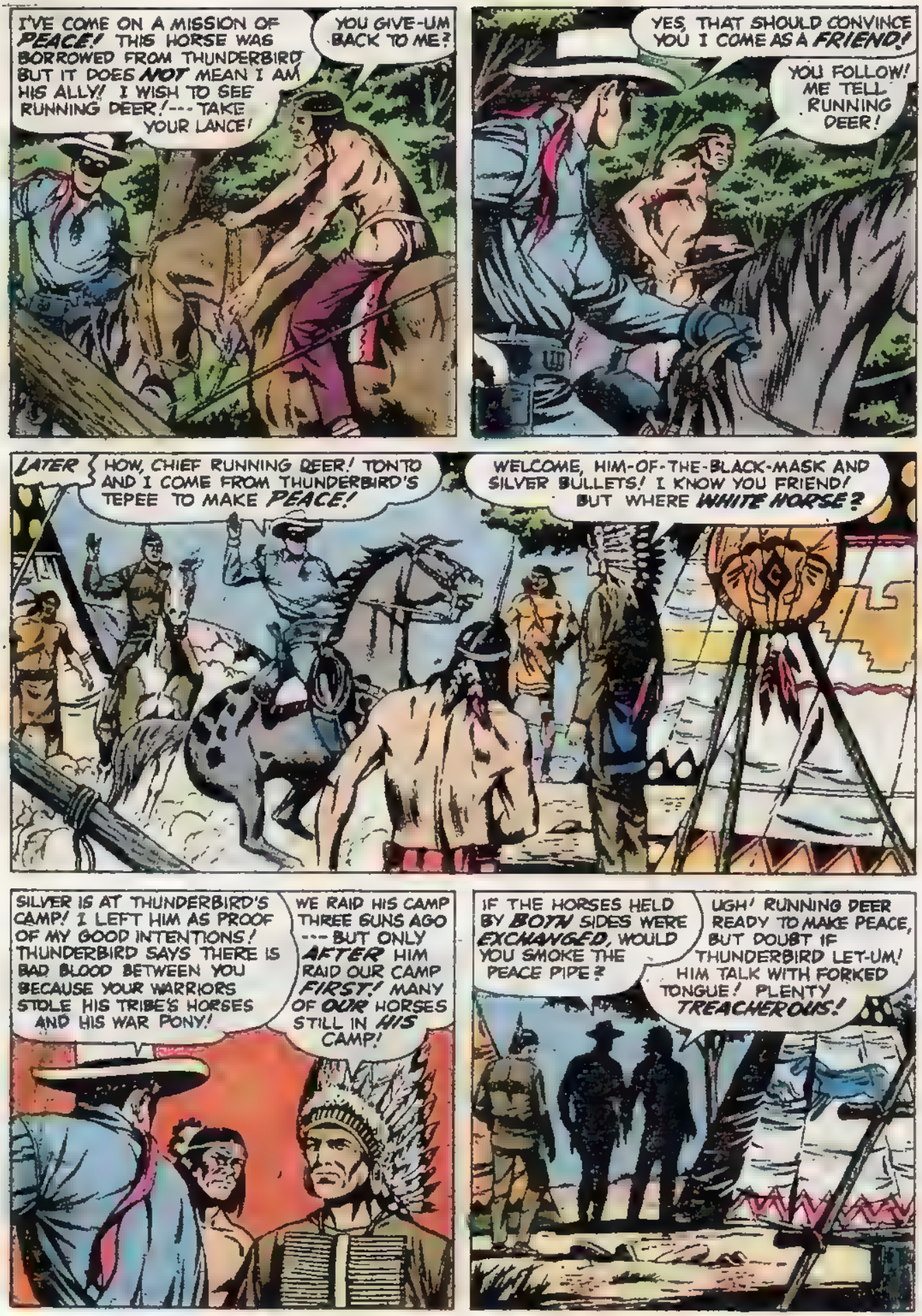
SILVER
RANSOM FOR SILVER
KEMO SABAY, LOOK NEAR BOULDERS!
THOSE BRAVES ARE IN WAR PAINT, TONTO! IT IS AN AMBUSH!
THERE ARE THEIR HORSES! IF WE CAN STAMPEDE THEM, THE AMBUSHERS WILL BE FORCED OUT OF HIDING AND THAT WILL ALERT THE ONCOMING INDIANS!
BANG!
BLAM!
THEM LEAVE AMBUSH NOW!
WE DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN BY THEM, TONTO! RIDE!
COME ON, SILVER!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!

SOON--- CHIEF THUNDERBIRD, TONTO AND I COME IN PEACE!
WELCOME, HIM-WHO-HIDES-HIS-FACE!
OFTEN THUNDERBIRD SEE YOU FROM DISTANCE! THIS FIRST TIME THUNDERBIRD GET CLOSE LOOK AT WHITE HORSE! HIM PLENTY GOOD!
THANKS, THUNDERBIRD! ---TONTO AND I'VE COME TO LEARN WHY YOU AND YOUR BRAVES HAVE PUT ON WAR PAINT!
THUNDERBIRD'S BRAVES TAKE UP HATCHET AGAINST RUNNING DEER'S TRIBE! THREE SUNS AGO, RUNNING DEER'S RAIDERS STEAL OUR HORSES! AMONG-UM WAS THUNDERBIRD'S WAR PONY!
AND IF I WERE ABLE TO HAVE RUNNING DEER RETURN YOUR PONY AND THE OTHER HORSES, WOULD THAT BRING ABOUT PEACE?
UGH! THAT MAKE PEACE! BUT RUNNING DEER NOT GIVE-UM BACK GREAT HORSE LIKE ONE HIM STEAL FROM THUNDERBIRD!
I KNOW RUNNING DEER WELL! PERHAPS, I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO RETURN THE HORSES! ALL I ASK IS THAT FOR TWO DAYS YOU KEEP YOUR WARRIORS IN CAMP!
FOR TWO DAYS, THUNDERBIRD NOT ATTACK-UM! BUT THUNDERBIRD NOT SURE YOU NOT WORK WITH RUNNING DEER! YOU SAY YOU HIS FRIEND! MEBBE THIS TRICK TO THROW THUNDERBIRD OFF GUARD WHILE RUNNING DEER ATTACK! THUNDERBIRD NEED PROOF YOU SPEAK FOR PEACE AND NOT FOR RUNNING DEER! YOU SHOW THAT BY LEAVING HOSTAGE HERE--- YOUR HORSE!

BUT SILVER IS A ONE-MAN HORSE---
---IF YOU NOT LEAVE-UM WITH THUNDERBIRD, THERE BE NO PEACE FOR TWO DAYS!
ALL RIGHT, THUNDERBIRD! BUT WHEN TONTO AND I RETURN WITH YOUR STOLEN HORSES---
---YOU GET-UM BACK! NOW THUNDERBIRD RIDE WHITE HORSE!
EASY, SILVER! STEADY!
I WARNED YOU HE WAS A ONE-MAN HORSE, THUNDERBIRD!
YOU STOP-UM, FAST!

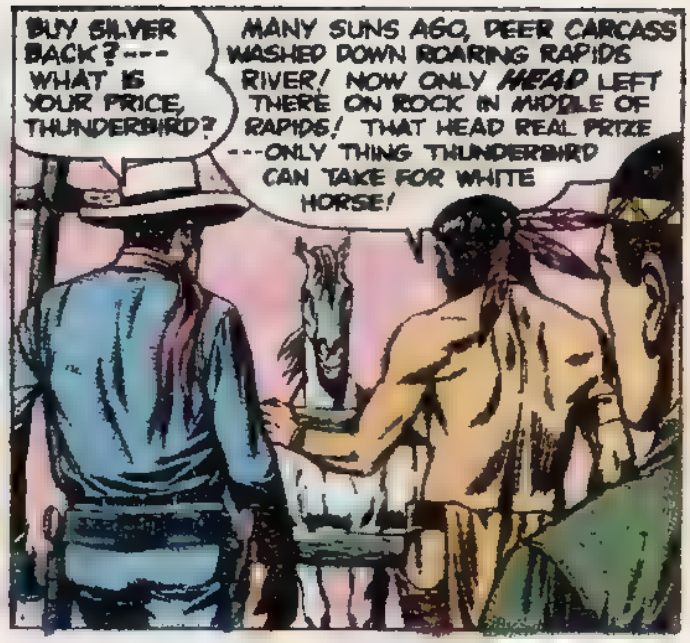
EASY, SILVER! LET HIM RIDE YOU!
HIM OBEY YOU! THUNDERBIRD CAN RIDE-UM NOW!
I'LL NEED AN INDIAN PONY, THUNDERBIRD! TONTO AND I WANT TO SET OUT AT ONCE FOR RUNNING DEER!
SOON— KEMO SABAY, SILVER FOLLOW!
BACK, SILVER! BACK! CHIEF THUNDERBIRD IS TO RIDE YOU UNTIL I GET BACK!
I'LL NOT BE LONG, BIG FELLOW! GO BACK TO THE CHIEF!
HIM GO BACK— BUT SILVER KEEP WATCHING YOU!
I DON'T LIKE LEAVING HIM, TONTO! BUT IF IT WILL HELP BRING ABOUT PEACE —! RUNNING DEER'S CAMP IS TO THE WEST, THE SOONER WE REACH IT, THE SOONER WE RETURN!
LATER
RUNNING DEER'S TENTS JUST ON OTHER SIDE OF THIS—
GUNFIRE!
PING!

RUNNING DEER'S BRAVES ARE SHOOTING AT US! TURN BACK!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
THEY FOLLOW!
RIDE FOR THE WOODS!
GO ON, TONTO! I'LL CIRCLE ON YOUR TRAIL AND SEE IF I CAN COME UP ON ONE OF THE BRAVES AND LEARN WHY THEY FIRED.
UGH! TONTO NOT THINK THEY CHASE US LONG!
SOON---
ONLY ONE BRAVE IS STILL FOLLOWING TONTO! NOW TO TAKE HIM!
REIN IN AND DROP YOUR LANCE!
WHY DID YOU ATTACK US AS WE FORDED THE RIVER?
YOUR PONY HAVE MARK OF THUNDERBIRD'S TRIBE ---THEY OUR ENEMIES! ON THAT HORSE, YOU NOT SAFE HERE!

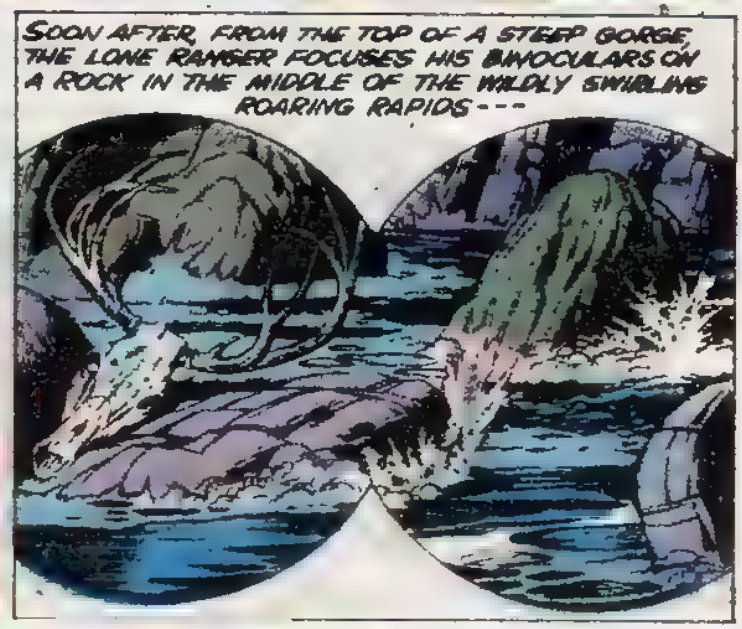

I'VE COME ON A MISSION OF PEACE! THIS HORSE WAS BORROWED FROM THUNDERBIRD BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN I AM HIS ALLY! I WISH TO SEE RUNNING DEER!--- TAKE YOUR LANCE!
YOU GIVE-UM BACK TO ME?
YES, THAT SHOULD CONVINCE YOU I COME AS A FRIEND!
YOU FOLLOW! ME TELL RUNNING DEER!
LATER
HOW, CHIEF RUNNING DEER! TONTO AND I COME FROM THUNDERBIRD'S TEPEE TO MAKE PEACE!
WELCOME, HIM-OF-THE-BLACK-MASK AND SILVER BULLETS! I KNOW YOU FRIEND! BUT WHERE WHITE HORSE?
SILVER IS AT THUNDERBIRD'S CAMP! I LEFT HIM AS PROOF OF MY GOOD INTENTIONS! THUNDERBIRD SAYS THERE IS BAD BLOOD BETWEEN YOU BECAUSE YOUR WARRIORS STOLE HIS TRIBE'S HORSES AND HIS WAR PONY!
WE RAID HIS CAMP THREE SUNS AGO --- BUT ONLY AFTER HIM RAID OUR CAMP FIRST! MANY OF OUR HORSES STILL IN HIS CAMP!
IF THE HORSES HELD BY BOTH SIDES WERE EXCHANGED, WOULD YOU SMOKE THE PEACE PIPE?
UGH! RUNNING DEER READY TO MAKE PEACE, BUT DOUBT IF THUNDERBIRD LET-UM! HIM TALK WITH FORKED TONGUE! PLENTY TREACHEROUS!

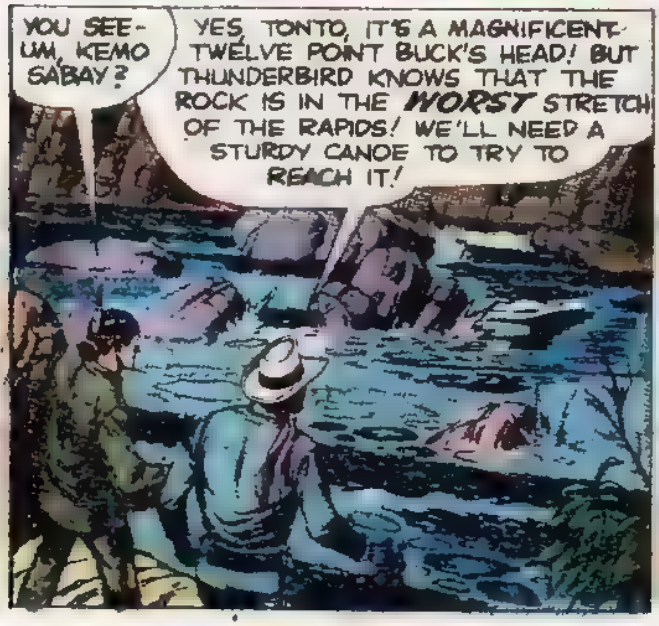
HE HAS AGREED TO TWO-DAYS' TRUCE, CHIEF RUNNING DEER! WILL YOU GIVE ME A PEACE WAMPUM TO TAKE TO HIM?
UGH! BUT IF YOU NOT COME BACK BY SUNSET TOMORROW ON YOUR WHITE HORSE, RUNNING DEER LEAD BRAVES TO ATTACK-UM!
I'LL RETURN WITH HIS PEACE PLEDGE BY THEN AND RIDING SILVER!
IT DARK NOW! TONIGHT YOU AND TONTO STAY HERE! LEAVE WHEN THE SUN RISE AND IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE, COME BACK ON WHITE HORSE BEFORE SUNSET!
THE NEXT MORNING, THE LONE RANGER SHOWS CHIEF THUNDERBIRD THE PEACE WAMPUM FROM RUNNING DEER...
THUNDERBIRD AGREE TO MEET-UM TO EXCHANGE HORSES AND SMOKE CALUMET!
THEN THERE WILL BE PEACE, THUNDERBIRD! IF YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR WAMPUM NOW SAYING YOU WISH A POWWOW, I'LL BRING IT TO RUNNING DEER ON SILVER!
I GIVE WAMPUM BUT THUNDERBIRD KEEP WHITE HORSE!
OUR AGREEMENT WAS TO LET YOU RIDE HIM UNTIL WE RETURNED FROM RUNNING DEER'S CAMP! I HAVE COME BACK TO CLAIM MY HORSE!
THUNDERBIRD KNOW HIM YOUR HORSE, BUT ALL BRAVES THINK YOU GIVE-UM TO THUNDERBIRD AS GIFT! IF THUNDERBIRD RETURN-UM, BRAVES THINK THUNDERBIRD HEAP FOOL! IT BETTER THUNDERBIRD KEEP-UM!
AND IF I TRY TO TAKE SILVER BY FORCE I'LL NOT GET FAR WITH THOSE BRAVES GUARDING HIM!

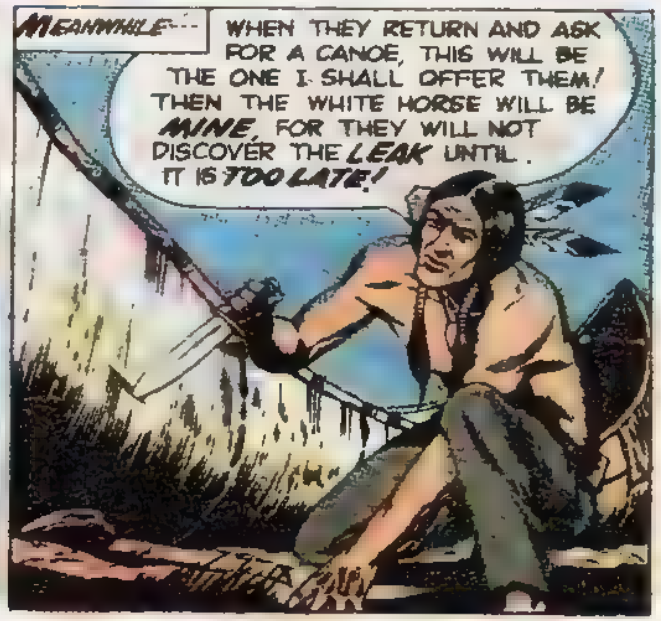
THUNDERBIRD, I TOLD RUNNING DEER WHEN I RETURNED TO HIM, I WOULD BE RIDING SILVER! I MUST HAVE HIM OR THERE WILL BE NO PEACE!
I CANNOT LET MY BRAVES SEE ME GIVE-UM BACK---BUT YOU CAN BUY-UM!

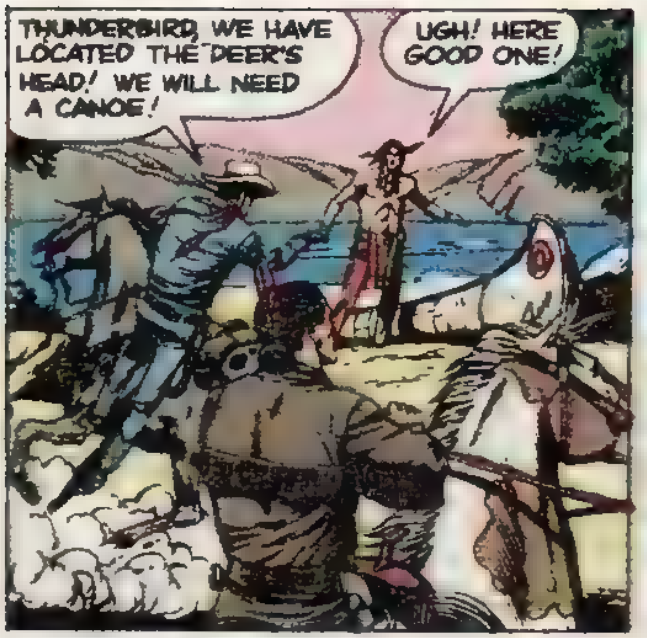

BUY SILVER BACK?--- WHAT IS YOUR PRICE, THUNDERBIRD?
MANY SUNS AGO, DEER CARCASS WASHED DOWN ROARING RAPIDS RIVER! NOW ONLY HEAD LEFT THERE ON ROCK IN MIDDLE OF RAPIDS! THAT HEAD REAL PRIZE ---ONLY THING THUNDERBIRD CAN TAKE FOR WHITE HORSE!

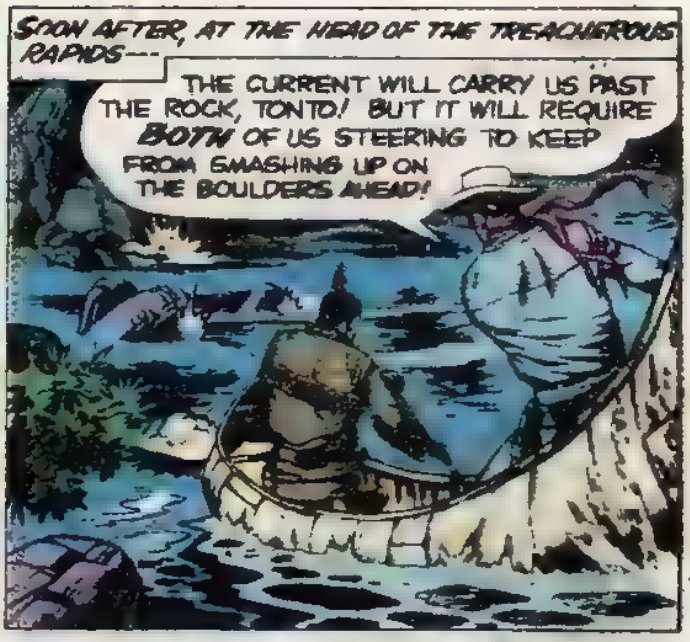
EASY FELLOW---DON'T WORRY, TONTO AND I WILL GET THE DEER'S HEAD FOR THUNDERBIRD! WE'LL BE RIDING TOGETHER SOON, SILVER!

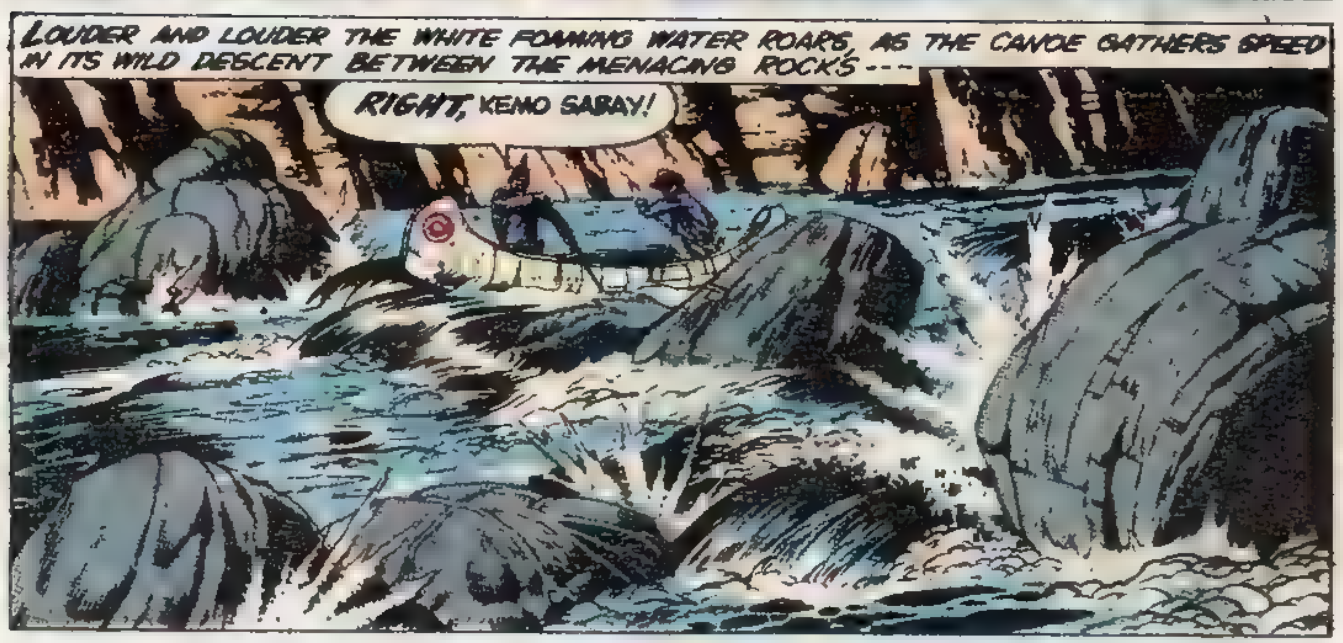

SOON AFTER, FROM THE TOP OF A STEEP GORGE, THE LONE RANGER FOCUSES HIS BINOCULARS ON A ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WILDLY SWIRLING ROARING RAPIDS---


YOU SEE-UM, KEMO SABAY?
YES, TONTO, IT'S A MAGNIFICENT TWELVE POINT BUCK'S HEAD! BUT THUNDERBIRD KNOWS THAT THE ROCK IS IN THE WORST STRETCH OF THE RAPIDS! WE'LL NEED A STURDY CANOE TO TRY TO REACH IT!

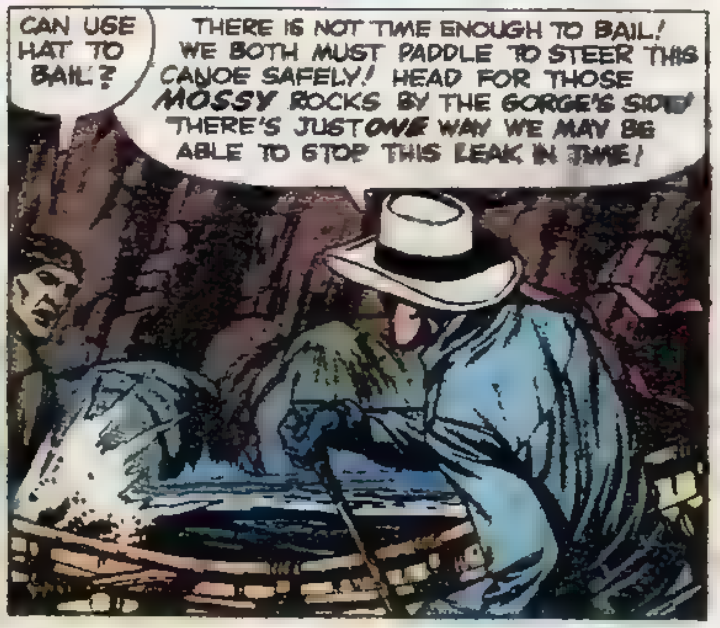

MEANWHILE---
WHEN THEY RETURN AND ASK FOR A CANOE, THIS WILL BE THE ONE I SHALL OFFER THEM! THEN THE WHITE HORSE WILL BE MINE, FOR THEY WILL NOT DISCOVER THE LEAK UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!


THUNDERBIRD, WE HAVE LOCATED THE DEER'S HEAD! WE WILL NEED A CANOE!
UGH! HERE GOOD ONE!

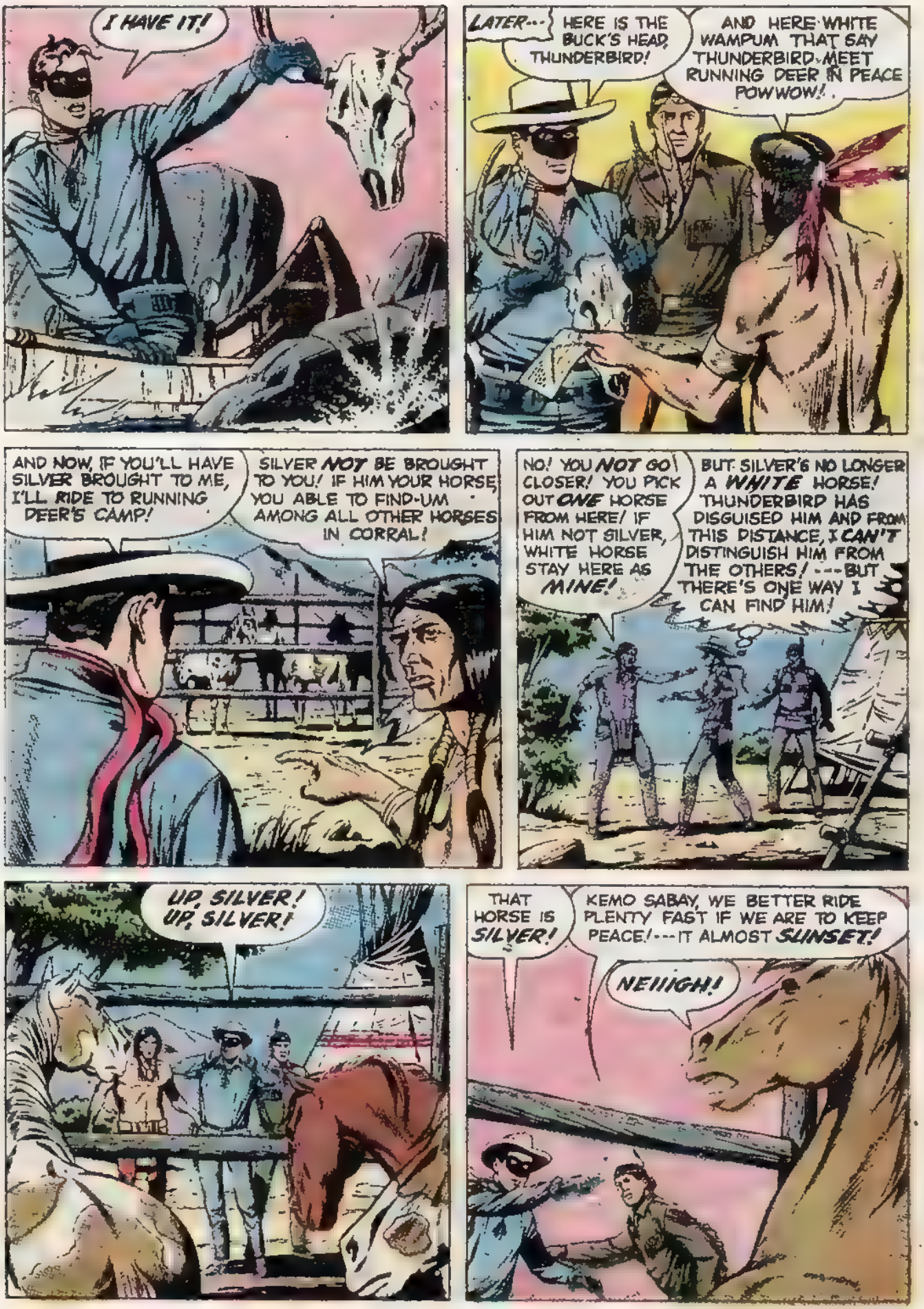

SOON AFTER, AT THE HEAD OF THE TREACHEROUS RAPIDS---
THE CURRENT WILL CARRY US PAST THE ROCK, TONTO! BUT IT WILL REQUIRE BOTH OF US STEERING TO KEEP FROM SMASHING UP ON THE BOULDERS AHEAD!


LOUDER AND LOUDER THE WHITE FOAMING WATER ROARS, AS THE CANOE GATHERS SPEED IN ITS WILD DESCENT BETWEEN THE MENACING ROCKS---
RIGHT, KEMO SABAY!

AND SUDDENLY---
TONTO, WE'VE SPRUNG A LEAK!


CAN USE HAT TO BAIL?
THERE IS NOT TIME ENOUGH TO BAIL! WE BOTH MUST PADDLE TO STEER THIS CANOE SAFELY! HEAD FOR THOSE MOSSY ROCKS BY THE GORGE'S SIDE! THERE'S JUST ONE WAY WE MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THIS LEAK IN TIME!

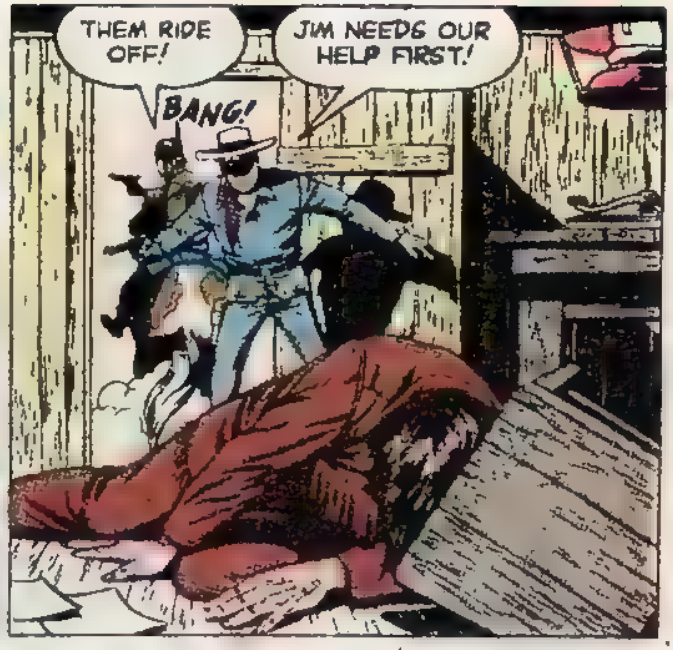
AND AS THE CANOE RACES BY THE MOSS-COVERED ROCK WALL, THE LONE RANGER RIPS THE SOFT, POROUS MOSS FROM THE STONE---
THEN WITH HIS BOOT HEEL, HE POUNDS THE PLIABLE MOSS INTO THE HOLE----.
THERE! THE MOSS WILL KEEP MOST OF THE WATER OUT! BUT THAT PLUG WILL NOT STAY IN PLACE LONG!
THERE ROCK WITH DEER'S HEAD, 'KEMO SABAY!'
I'LL GUIDE THE CANOE, TONTO! AS WE PASS IT, GRAB THE SKULL!
BUT THE POWERFUL, TRICKY CURRENT SUDDENLY PUSHES THE CANOE AWAY---
MISSED-UM!
WE'LL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS RUN A SECOND TIME!--- IT'S NOW OR NEVER!


I HAVE IT!
LATER··· HERE IS THE BUCK'S HEAD, THUNDERBIRD!
AND HERE WHITE WAMPUM THAT SAY THUNDERBIRD MEET RUNNING DEER IN PEACE POWWOW!
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL HAVE SILVER BROUGHT TO ME, I'LL RIDE TO RUNNING DEER'S CAMP!
SILVER NOT BE BROUGHT TO YOU! IF HIM YOUR HORSE, YOU ABLE TO FIND-UM AMONG ALL OTHER HORSES IN CORRAL!
NO! YOU NOT GO CLOSER! YOU PICK OUT ONE HORSE FROM HERE! IF HIM NOT SILVER, WHITE HORSE STAY HERE AS MINE!
BUT SILVER'S NO LONGER A WHITE HORSE! THUNDERBIRD HAS DISGUISED HIM AND FROM THIS DISTANCE, I CAN'T DISTINGUISH HIM FROM THE OTHERS! ---BUT THERE'S ONE WAY I CAN FIND HIM!
UP, SILVER! UP, SILVER!
THAT HORSE IS SILVER!
KEMO SABAY, WE BETTER RIDE PLENTY FAST IF WE ARE TO KEEP PEACE! ---IT ALMOST SUNSET!
NEIIIGH!

QUICKLY THE LONE RANGER SADDLES THE STILL MUD-COVERED SILVER AND THEY RACE FOR RUNNING DEER'S CAMP---
THERE RIVER, BUT SUN ALREADY DOWN!
RUNNING DEER'S BRAVES ARE STARTING TO COME OVER---AND THEY ARE IN WAR PAINT!
RUNNING DEER, HIM-OF-THE-BLACK-MASK COMES!
YES, BUT NOT ON HIS WHITE HORSE! THAT MEANS THUNDERBIRD DOES NOT WANT PEACE! WE SHALL ATTACK!
WAIT, RUNNING DEER! PUT UP YOUR WEAPONS! I BRING A PEACE WAMPUM FROM THUNDERBIRD!
MEBBE WAMPUM SAY PEACE, BUT RUNNING DEER NOT BELIEVE THUNDERBIRD SINCE HIM NOT RETURN YOUR WHITE HORSE TO YOU!
RUNNING DEER, LOOK!
HORSE IS WHITE!--- THEN THERE BE PEACE!
IT DIFFICULT RANSOM YOU PAY FOR SILVER!
YES, TONTO, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT TO BRING ABOUT PEACE!--- HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

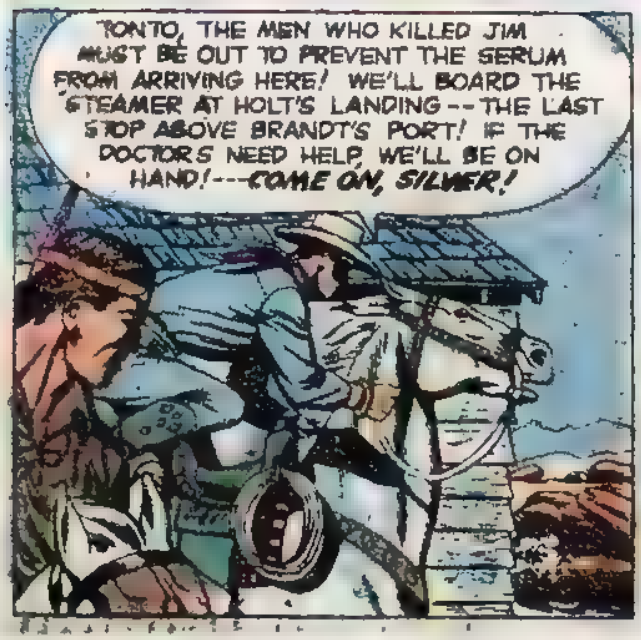
the Lone Ranger
THE MISSION OF MERCY
JUST BEYOND THE SIOUX RESERVATION, A RIDER REINS IN AT A PROSPECTORS' CAMP...
RUSS, DO YOU HEAR THOSE MEDICINE DRUMS? SMALLPOX BROKE OUT AMONG THE SIOUX!
SMALLPOX?--I'VE BEEN WONDERIN' HOW TO MOVE THOSE REDSKINS FROM THEIR LAND NOW WE'VE STRUCK GOLD THERE! WHEN ENOUGH OF 'EM DIE, THEY'LL LISTEN WHEN I SAY THE LAND IS EVIL AND THEY MUST LEAVE!
IT'S A GOOD IDEA, RUSS, 'CEPT THE INDIAN AGENT WAS THERE AT THE SAME TIME AN' SAID HE WAS TELEGRAPHIN' FAST FOR SERUM!
HANK AN' BUTCH, MAKE SURE THAT MESSAGE ISN'T SENT!
SOON--- DRUMS SAY PLENTY SICKNESS IN REGERVATION, KEMO SABAY!
THAT'S JIM WALTON'S, THE INDIAN AGENT'S CABIN, TONTO! HE KNOWS US AND HE'LL TELL US WHAT IS WRONG!
KEMO SABAY, THEM FIRE INTO CABIN!
COME ON, SILVER!
BANG! BLAM!
BANG! BLAM!

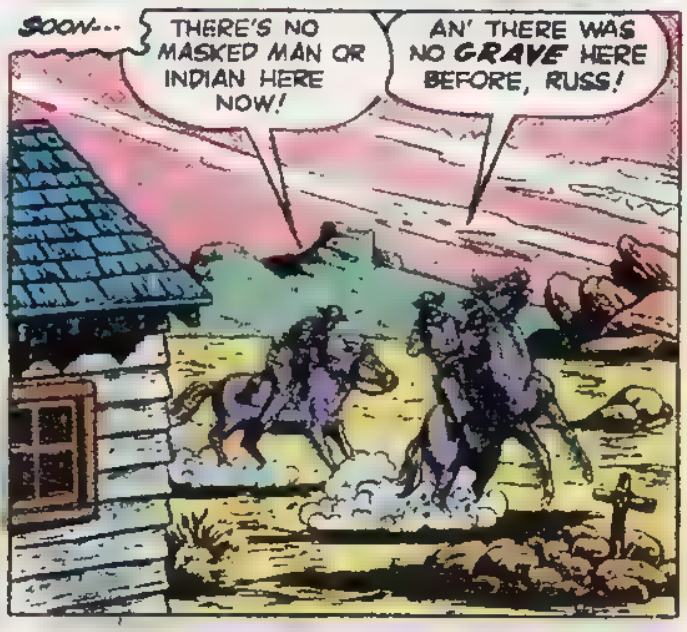
M-MY GUN!
I DON'T WANT TO TANGLE WITH THOSE TWO LEADSLINGERS. WE'VE DONE OUR JOB HERE! HIGH-TAIL IT!


THEM RIDE OFF!
JIM NEEDS OUR HELP FIRST!
BANG!

I-IT'S YOU-- I-I'M DONE FOR---IT'S UP TO YOU --- SMALLPOX ON RESERVATION-- TELEGRAPH FORT WAYNE-- SERUM --M-MUST HAVE--
--I'LL SEND THE MESSAGE, JIM! AND I'LL GET THE MEN WHO SHOT YOU!

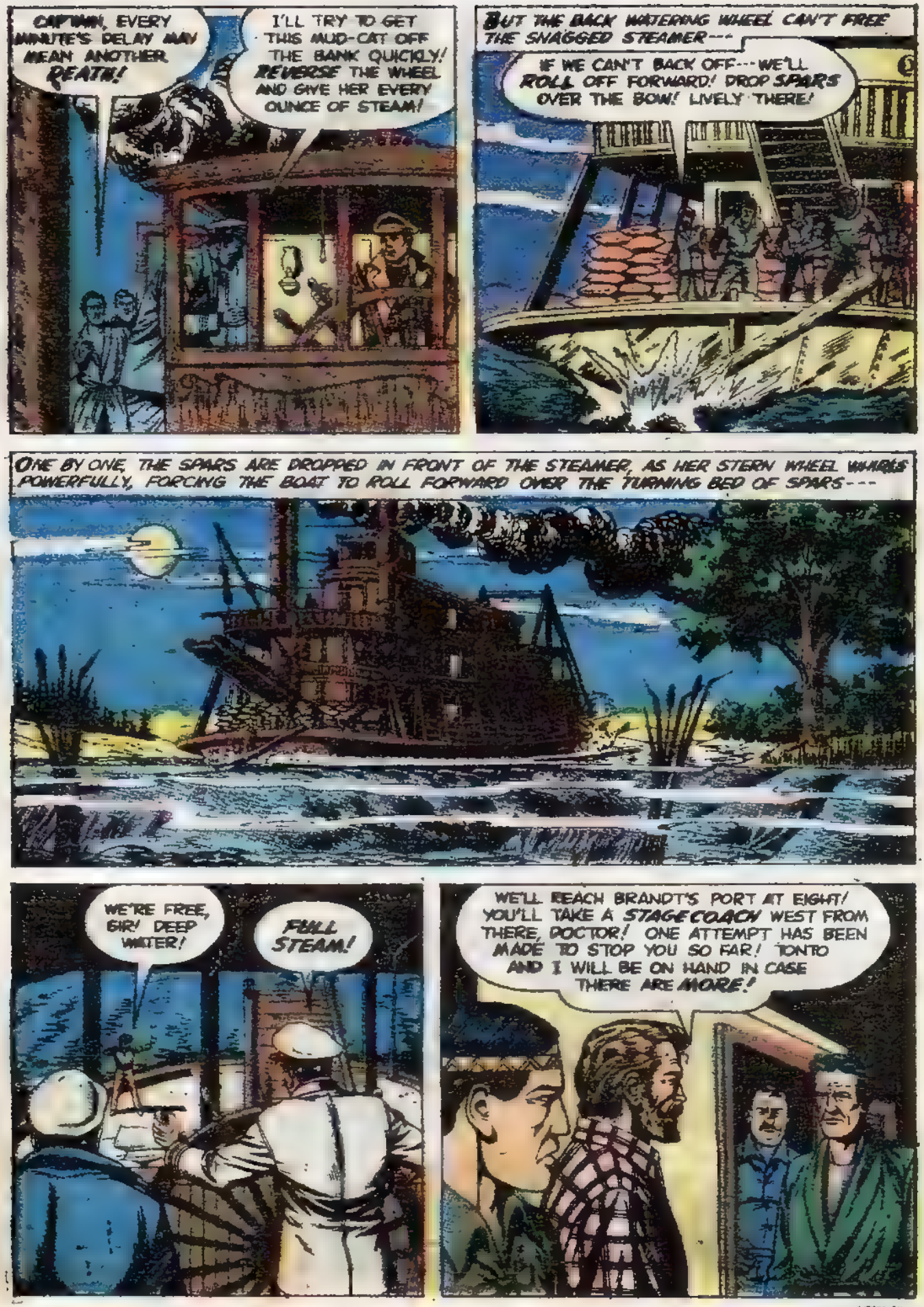
QUICKLY, THE LONE RANGER TAPS OUT THE URGENT MESSAGE! SOON AFTER, AN ANSWER COMES---
SERUM AND TWO DOCTORS BEING RUSHED WEST! WILL ARRIVE AT BRANDT'S PORT BY BOAT IN TWO DAYS! WILL TAKE FASTEST TRANSPORTATION TO RESERVATION---COMMANDANT, FORT WAYNE!

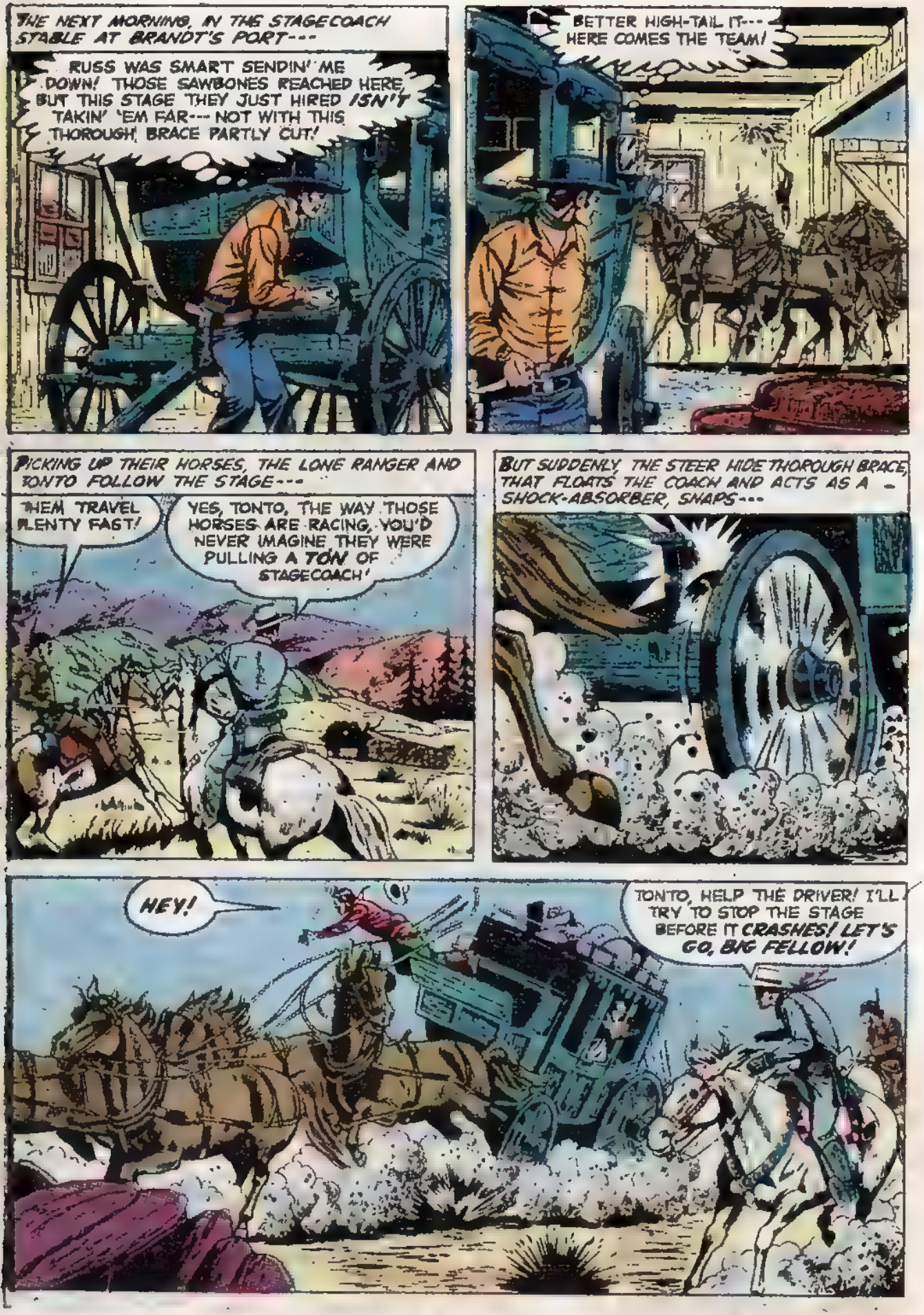

TONTO, THE MEN WHO KILLED JIM MUST BE OUT TO PREVENT THE SERUM FROM ARRIVING HERE! WE'LL BOARD THE STEAMER AT HOLT'S LANDING -- THE LAST STOP ABOVE BRANDT'S PORT! IF THE DOCTORS NEED HELP, WE'LL BE ON HAND!---COME ON, SILVER!


SOON---
THERE'S NO MASKED MAN OR INDIAN HERE NOW!
AN' THERE WAS NO GRAVE HERE BEFORE, RUSS!

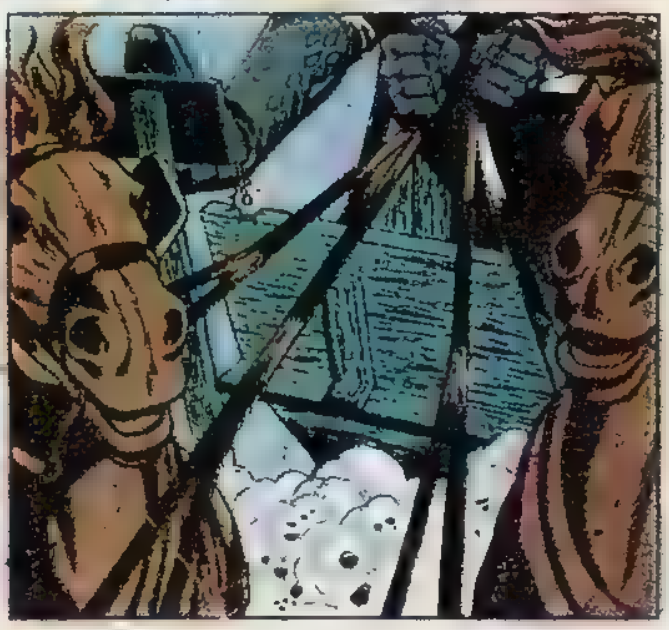
YOU'RE RIGHT! THE AGENT MUST BE BURIED OUT THERE! THE MESSAGE WASN'T SENT!
HOLD ON, RUSS! LOOK AT THIS!
QUICKLY, RUSS HAVEN READS THE REPLY---
.. RIDE FOR HOLT'S LANDING AND BOARD THAT STEAMER! I WANT THE SERUM DUMPED IN THE RIVER BEFORE THAT BOAT EVER REACHES BRANDT'S PORT!
TWO DAYS LATER, TONTO AND THE DISGUISED LONE RANGER DISMOUNT FROM THEIR RENTED HORSES AT HOLT'S LANDING---
THAT STEAMER HAVE ONLY ONE WHEEL, KEMO SABAY!
YES, TONTO, IT'S A STERN WHEELER! THE SIDE WHEEL BOATS ARE TOO WIDE FOR OUR WESTERN RIVERS! AND THE CHANNELS HERE AREN'T AS DEEP AS THE MISSISSIPPI'S! THESE BOATS HAVE TO SAIL IN THREE FEET OF WATER!
HORSES FOR HIRE
THEM TAKE ON PLENTY FUEL WOOD AND PASSENGERS!
AND THERE MAY BE SOME AMONG THEM WHO ARE OUT TO SABOTAGE THE SERUM SHIPMENT! WE'LL LOCATE THE DOCTORS' CABIN AND GUARD IT!
LATE THAT NIGHT---
TONTO REPORTED NOTHING DURING HIS WATCH AND--- SOMEONE'S STARTING FOR THE DOCTORS' CABIN!
THAT CABIN IS PRIVATE!

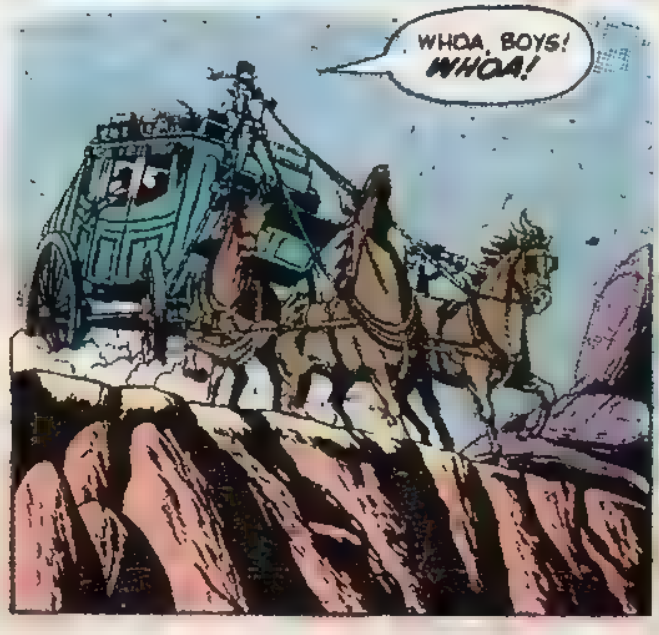
YOU MEDDLIN' POLECAT, I'LL DUMP YOU OVERBOARD!
SORRY! MY TICKET'S GOOD TO THE END OF THE RIVER!
DESPERATELY, THE TWO MEN STRUGGLE ACROSS THE DECK, AS SUDDENLY---
A COUPLE OF INCHES MORE AND THIS WHEEL WILL DO THIS JOB FOR ME!
OWW!
SMOKING BOILERS! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT MAN WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THE REAR CABIN WITH A DRAWN GUN CAPTAIN! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY SHIPMENT OF SMALLPOX SERUM IN IT AND I'M CERTAIN HE WAS OUT TO DESTROY IT!
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. BUT THE MAN IS RIGHT ABOUT THE SERUM, CAPTAIN!
WELL, I'LL CLAP THIS LUBBER INTO IRONS! HE'LL NOT TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!
BUT SUDDENLY---
CAPTAIN! ---WE'VE RUN AGROUND!

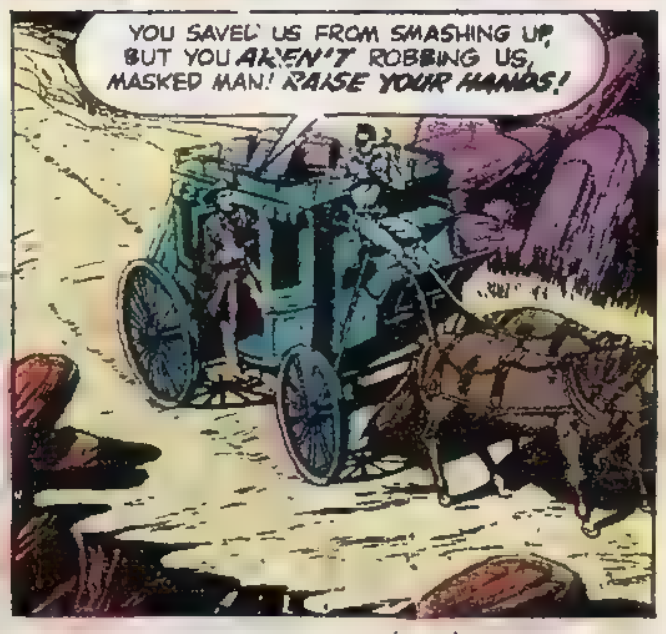

CAPTAIN, EVERY MINUTE'S DELAY MAY MEAN ANOTHER DEATH!
I'LL TRY TO GET THIS MUD-CAT OFF THE BANK QUICKLY! REVERSE THE WHEEL AND GIVE HER EVERY OUNCE OF STEAM!
BUT THE BACK WATERING WHEEL CAN'T FREE THE SNAGGED STEAMER---
IF WE CAN'T BACK OFF---WE'LL ROLL OFF FORWARD! DROP SPARS OVER THE BOW! LIVELY THERE!
ONE BY ONE, THE SPARS ARE DROPPED IN FRONT OF THE STEAMER, AS HER STERN WHEEL WHIRLS POWERFULLY, FORCING THE BOAT TO ROLL FORWARD OVER THE TURNING BED OF SPARS---
WE'RE FREE, SIR! DEEP WATER!
FULL STEAM!
WE'LL REACH BRANDT'S PORT AT EIGHT! YOU'LL TAKE A STAGECOACH WEST FROM THERE, DOCTOR! ONE ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO STOP YOU SO FAR! TONTO AND I WILL BE ON HAND IN CASE THERE ARE MORE!


THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE STAGECOACH STABLE AT BRANDT'S PORT---
RUSS WAS SMART SENDIN' ME DOWN! THOSE SAWBONES REACHED HERE, BUT THIS STAGE THEY JUST HIRED ISN'T TAKIN' 'EM FAR--- NOT WITH THIS THOROUGH BRACE PARTLY CUT!
BETTER HIGH-TAIL IT--- HERE COMES THE TEAM!
PICKING UP THEIR HORSES, THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO FOLLOW THE STAGE---
THEM TRAVEL PLENTY FAST!
YES, TONTO, THE WAY THOSE HORSES ARE RACING, YOU'D NEVER IMAGINE THEY WERE PULLING A TON OF STAGECOACH!
BUT SUDDENLY, THE STEER HIDE THOROUGH BRACE, THAT FLOATS THE COACH AND ACTS AS A SHOCK-ABSORBER, SNAPS---
HEY!
TONTO, HELP THE DRIVER! I'LL TRY TO STOP THE STAGE BEFORE IT CRASHES! LET'S GO, BIG FELLOW!

NOW TO PRAY THE BRAKE HOLDS BEFORE THE STAGE OVERRUNS THE TEAM!



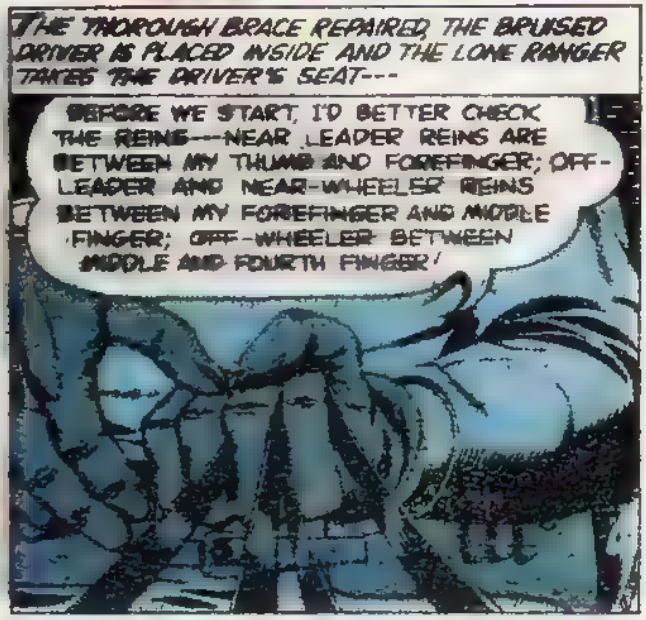

WHOA, BOYS! WHOA!

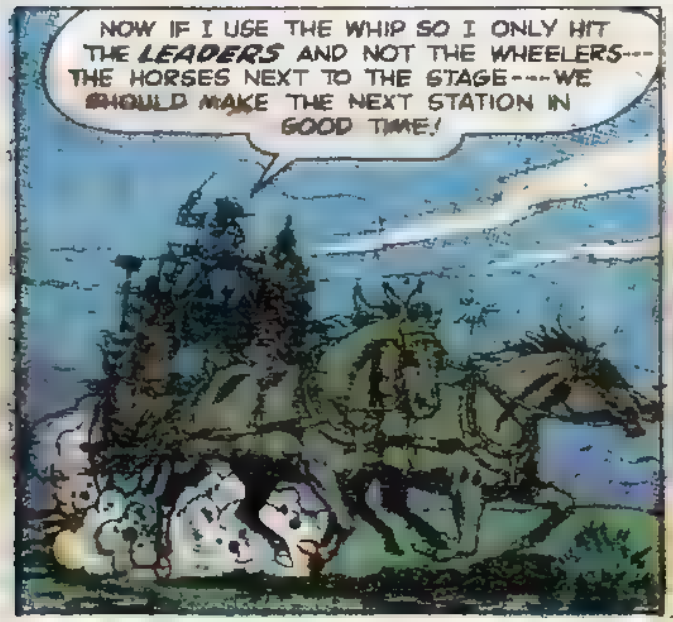

YOU SAVED US FROM SMASHING UP, BUT YOU AREN'T ROBBING US, MASKED MAN! RAISE YOUR HANDS!

YOU DROP-UM!
WH-WHAT?

TONTO!
I'M THE MAN FROM THE STEAMER, DOCTOR! IF YOU'LL ATTEND THE DRIVER, TONTO AND I WILL TRY TO FIX THE STAGE!

WHEELS NOT CRACKED! TONTO SURE THEM SPLIT ON ROCKS YOU GO OVER!
NO, TONTO, THESE CONCORD WHEELS ARE MADE OF HAND-HEWN ASH AND EACH SPOKE IS INDIVIDUALLY FITTED; THEY CAN TAKE A LOT OF PUNISHMENT! ONLY THE THOROUGH BRACE NEEDS MENDING!

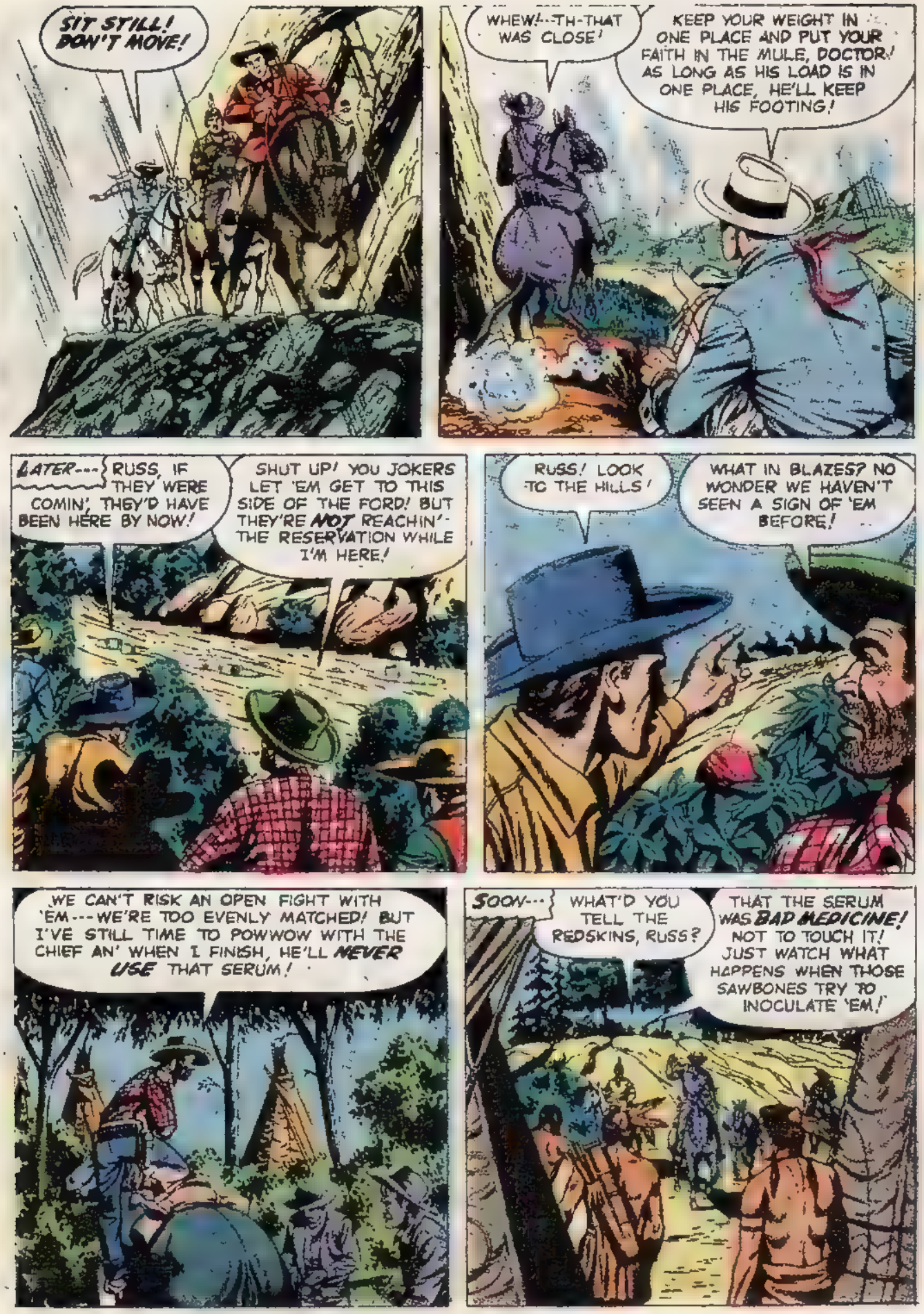

THE THOROUGH BRACE REPAIRED, THE BRUISED DRIVER IS PLACED INSIDE AND THE LONE RANGER TAKES THE DRIVER'S SEAT---
BEFORE WE START, I'D BETTER CHECK THE REINS---NEAR LEADER REINS ARE BETWEEN MY THUMB AND FOREFINGER; OFF-LEADER AND NEAR-WHEELER REINS BETWEEN MY FOREFINGER AND MIDDLE FINGER; OFF-WHEELER BETWEEN MIDDLE AND FOURTH FINGER!


NOW IF I USE THE WHIP SO I ONLY HIT THE LEADERS AND NOT THE WHEELERS--- THE HORSES NEXT TO THE STAGE---WE SHOULD MAKE THE NEXT STATION IN GOOD TIME!

THEN THEY TAKE ANOTHER STAGECOACH?
NO, TONTO, THEY'LL BE TRAVELING OVER GRASSLANDS AND FORDING A RIVER--- THEY'LL NEED TO RENT A CONESTOGA WAGON FOR THE ROUGH PART OF THE TRIP!

THE NEXT DAY, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES, AS TONTO AND THE LONE RANGER GUIDE THE HIRED CONESTOGA WAGON WEST---
CAN WE CROSS THIS RIVER IN THIS HEAVY WAGON?
THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCHMEN WHO MADE THESE WAGONS DESIGNED THEM JUST FOR THIS WORK! THE BROAD RIMMED WHEELS WILL KEEP IT ROLLING EVEN IN SOFT SAND UNTIL IT CAN FLOAT!
THEY'RE STARTIN' OVER!
THEY'VE COME FURTHER THAN RUSS WANTS 'EM TO NOW! LET'S STOP 'EM HERE!
KEMO SABAY---
---THERE THEY ARE, TONTO! BY THE PINES! USE YOUR GUN!
BANG BANG BANG
YEOOW!
TH-THEY'RE THROWIN' LEAD TOO DANG CLOSE! HIT LEATHER!
IT'S TOO DEEP FOR THE OXEN! WE'RE FLOATIN' FREE, BUT THE CURRENT'S SWEEPIN' US ALONG!

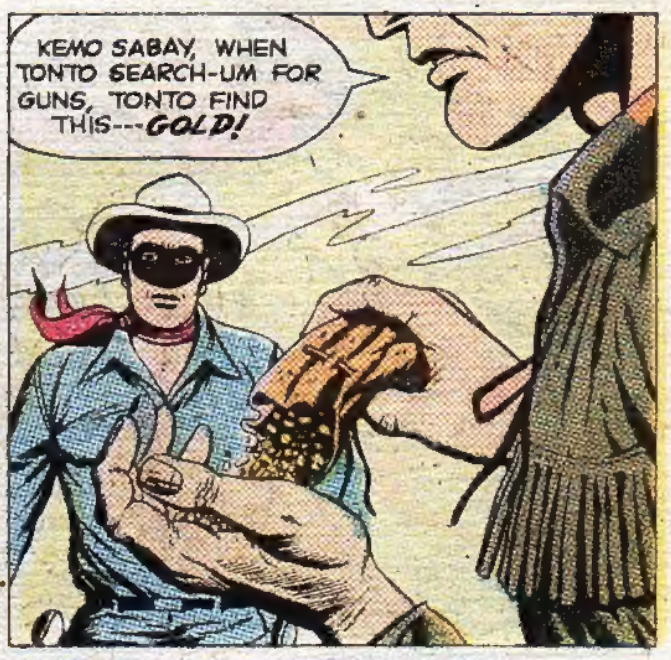
COME ON, SILVER!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
NOW MAKE FOR THE SHORE, SILVER! SWIM, BOY!
ONLY THE OX IS STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL A CONESTOGA WAGON, BUT SOMETIMES, YOU WISH HIS LEGS WERE LONGER!
WELL, WE'VE GOT THE SERUM SAFELY ACROSS!
THEY'VE MADE THREE ATTEMPTS TO STOP YOU SO FAR, THEY'RE CERTAIN TO MAKE A FINAL ATTEMPT JUST SHORT OF THE RESERVATION! WE CAN FOOL THEM- BY COMING IN THE BACK WAY OVER THE MOUNTAINS! THERE'S A-MINER'S CAMP NEARBY, TRY TO HIRE MULES!
SERUM
HANDLE WITH CARE
THE NEXT MORNING, THROUGH A DRIVING RAIN, THE MULE TEAM WINDS ALONG THE NARROW MOUNTAIN TRAIL---
SILVER AND SCOUT, HIGHLY TRAINED AS THEY ARE, WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD FROM THE MULES UP HERE, TONTO! THEY'RE BETTER AT PICKING THEIR WAY ON THIS STEEP, ROUGH GROUND!
UGH! TRAIL PLENTY NARROW. RAIN MAKE EDGES SOFT!
M-MY MULE'S SLIPPING!


SIT STILL! DON'T MOVE!
WHEW!--TH-THAT WAS CLOSE!
KEEP YOUR WEIGHT IN ONE PLACE AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE MULE, DOCTOR! AS LONG AS HIS LOAD IS IN ONE PLACE, HE'LL KEEP HIS FOOTING!
LATER--- RUSS, IF THEY WERE COMIN', THEY'D HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW!
SHUT UP! YOU JOKERS LET 'EM GET TO THIS SIDE OF THE FORD! BUT THEY'RE NOT REACHIN'-- THE RESERVATION WHILE I'M HERE!
RUSS! LOOK TO THE HILLS!
WHAT IN BLAZES? NO WONDER WE HAVEN'T SEEN A SIGN OF 'EM BEFORE!
WE CAN'T RISK AN OPEN FIGHT WITH 'EM--- WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED! BUT I'VE STILL TIME TO POWWOW WITH THE CHIEF AN' WHEN I FINISH, HE'LL NEVER USE THAT SERUM!
SOOV--- WHAT'D YOU TELL THE REDSKINS, RUSS?
THAT THE SERUM WAS BAD MEDICINE! NOT TO TOUCH IT! JUST WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THOSE SAWBONES TRY TO INOCULATE 'EM!

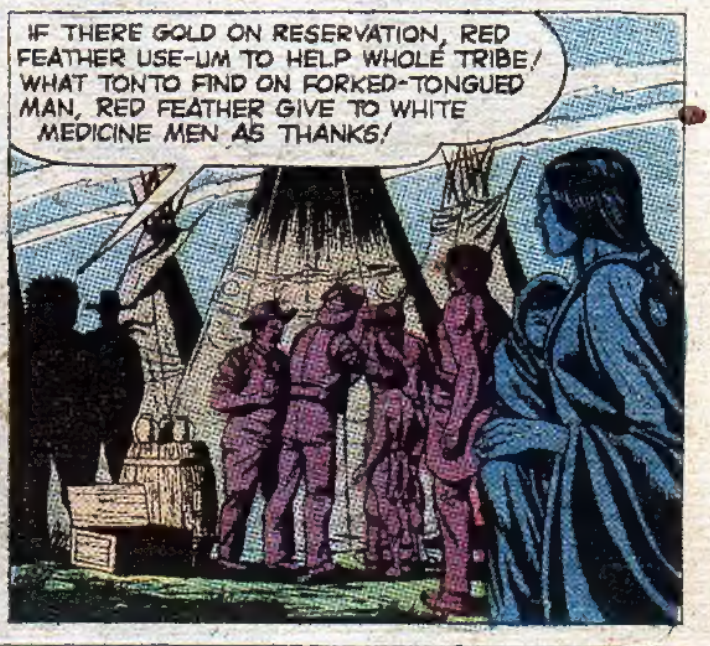
HOW, RED FEATHER! YOU KNOW TONTO AND I ARE FRIEND! JIM WALTON INTRODUCED US MANY MOONS AGO! THESE WHITE MEDICINE MEN HAVE COME TO HELP YOUR PEOPLE!
HOW, HIM-WHO-HIDES-HIS-FACE! RED FEATHER SAVVY MEDICINE IN BOXES HEAP BAD!
CHIEF, THE SERUM IN THOSE BOXES WILL PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE FROM SMALLPOX!
NO! RED FEATHER WARNED! YOU NOT STAB-UM!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE FALSELY INFORMED HIM ABOUT THE SERUM!
RED FEATHER, YOUR BONNET SPEAKS OF A BRAVE CHIEF. BUT I CHALLENGE YOU TO PROVE YOU ARE AS BRAVE AS I!
WHATEVER YOU DO, RED FEATHER DO!
DOCTOR, TAKE THE MEDICINE FROM THE BOX AND INOCULATE ME! THEN, WE WILL SEE IF RED FEATHER IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO BARE HIS ARM!
RUSS, THAT MASKED MAN IS SHAMIN' RED FEATHER INTO GETTIN' VACCINATED! AND IF HE DOES, THE REST OF THE TRIBE'LL---
---AIM FOR THOSE SERUM BOTTLES!

KEMO SABAY, BEHIND BUSHES!
BANG!
BLAM!
DOCTORS, GET YOUR BOTTLES UNDER COVER!
BANG! BLAM!
RED FEATHER, IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR PEOPLE--- ATTACK THE AMBUSHERS!
AIEEE!
R-RUSS, WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS OR YOU'LL BE CUT DOWN!
D-DON'T FIRE, MISTER!
TAKE THEIR WEAPONS, TONTO!
THEY ARE DEFEATED, RED FEATHER, BUT THERE IS STILL AN EVIL IN YOUR CAMP TO BE BEATEN--- SMALLPOX! I HAVE BARED MY ARM TO THE DOCTOR!
---WHAT YOU DO RED FEATHER NOT AFRAID TO DO! WATCH-UM!

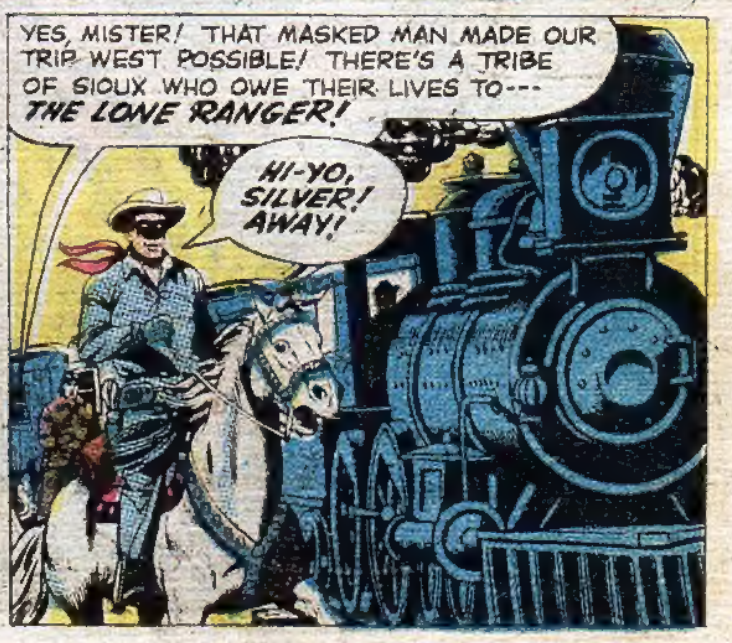
AND AS THE BRAVES SEE THEIR CHIEF VACCINATED--
IRON HORSE NEXT!
ME SHOW-UM DEER FOOT PLENTY BRAVE! HERE MY ARM, MEDICINE MAN!
KEEP AT IT, DOCTORS! I'M CERTAIN THE WHOLE TRIBE WILL ASK FOR IT NOW!


KEMO SABAY, WHEN TONTO SEARCH-UM FOR GUNS, TONTO FIND THIS---GOLD!

THIS GOLD EXPLAINS WHY THOSE MEN DIDN'T WANT YOUR TRIBE PROTECTED FROM THE DEADLY DISEASE, RED FEATHER! THEY HOPED IT WOULD DRIVE YOU FROM YOUR LAND, LEAVING THE GOLD FOR THEM!


IF THERE GOLD ON RESERVATION, RED FEATHER USE-UM TO HELP WHOLE TRIBE! WHAT TONTO FIND ON FORKED-TONGUED MAN, RED FEATHER GIVE TO WHITE MEDICINE MEN AS THANKS!

TWO DAYS LATER, THE OUTLAWS DELIVERED TO THE MARSHAL, THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO SEE THE DOCTORS OFF ON A WESTBOUND TRAIN---
IT TOOK A STEAMER, STAGE COACH, CONESTOGA WAGON AND MULE TRAIN, BUT HE GOT US TO THE STRICKEN TRIBE IN TIME!
J-JUMPIN' CATFISH! ARE YOU GENTS WAVIN' TO THAT MASKED MAN!


YES, MISTER! THAT MASKED MAN MADE OUR TRIP WEST POSSIBLE! THERE'S A TRIBE OF SIOUX WHO OWE THEIR LIVES TO--- THE LONE RANGER!
HI-YO, SILVER! AWAY!

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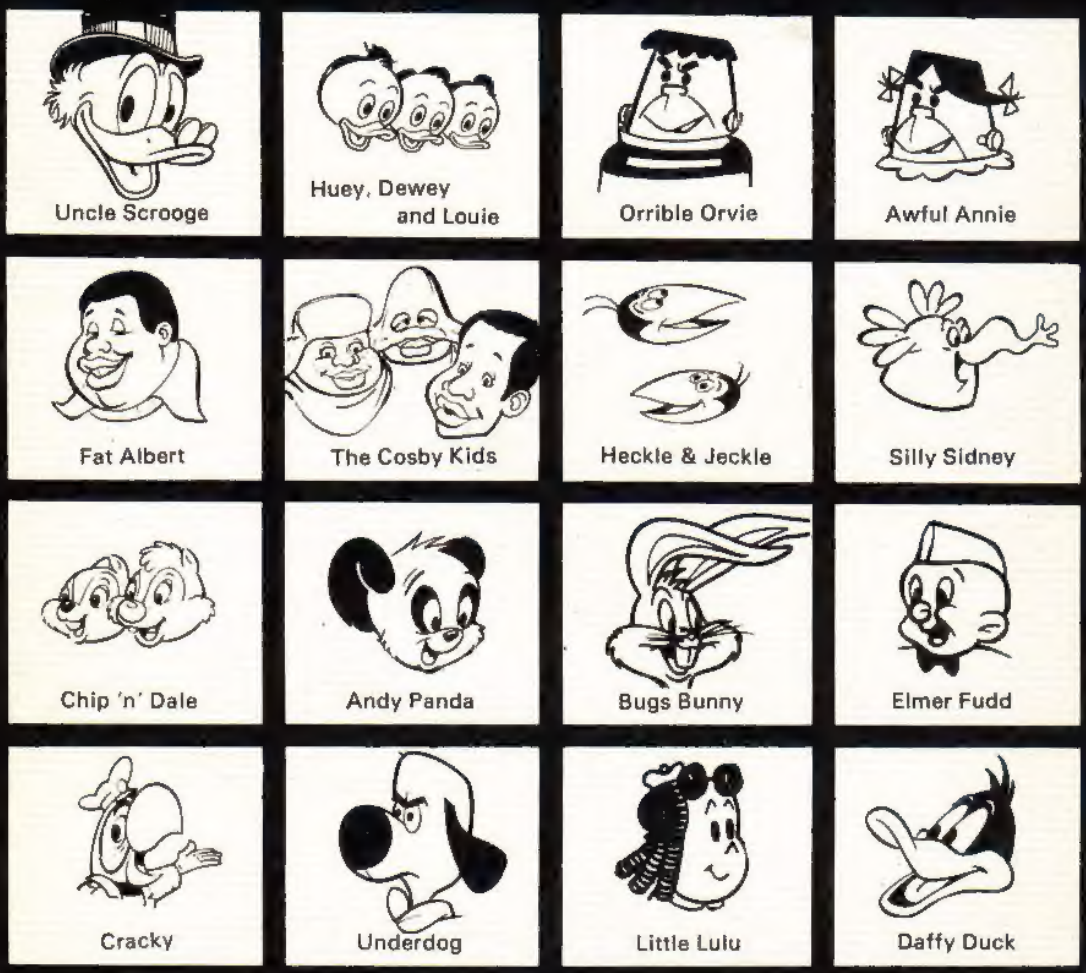

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